

Q. When you were listening to Foreign Secretary 'Aziz, did you get any kind of particular feelings of anger or—

*The President.* No, I didn't. I thought it was a very rational presentation, but wrong. I must say, I thought his style was good. From talking to Jim Baker, I thought he—I mean, when I talked to Jim, he said, look, the man presented his case. Clearly, we didn't agree with it. I thought he was quite complimentary of the way the Secretary of State did it. So, the atmospherics, I think, were all right, but he doesn't have it. He doesn't understand it. At least from what he said, he doesn't. Because this is not about some other question of linkage. This is about the invasion and the aggression about Kuwait—the dismantling of Kuwait, the brutality about Kuwait. So, I didn't get a sense of security from listening to that. But I will say that I thought that he presented his views in a reasonable way. He had a tough agenda. He had some tough talking points there. He works for a tough man.

Q. What exactly are you trying to convey here to Saddam Hussein on what he does have to lose? Is it the decimation of his society? Is it the liquidation of his military? Is it losing his own power? Can you be specific on that?

*The President.* I can't be more specific, but I can be that he will get out of Kuwait, and he will get out of Kuwait entirely, and he will get out of Kuwait without concession. That, I think, is the underlying part of the message.

Q. Mr. President, a question on Israel. Tariq 'Aziz was emphatic that if Iraq is attacked, Israel will be attacked. What are your obligations to Israel? Are you prepared to fight a war throughout the Middle East?

*The President.* That is too hypothetical a question for me to answer. We are prepared to do what we need to do to fully

implement 678. And I would think that he'd think long and hard before he started yet another war. There is one war on—that's his war against Kuwait. That's his aggression against Kuwait. And I don't think he wants to start another one. So, I'm not going to buy into that hypothesis that the United States would obviously feel that that was a most provocative act, most provocative.

Q. If I may, I don't believe it was a hypothetical question. The question was, what are your obligations to Israel?

*The President.* We have friends all over the world. We have friends in this coalition. And I'm determined that the United States will fill our obligations there. Clearly, if a friend in that area was attacked, wantonly attacked for no cause whatsoever, not only the United States but I think many people around the world would view that as a flagrant provocation. And I'll leave it stand right there.

Thank you all very much. Thank you.

*Note: President Bush's 68th news conference began at 3:55 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State James A. Baker III; Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Mohamed Sadiq al-Mashat, Iraqi Ambassador to the United States; King Fahd bin Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia; President Francois Mitterrand of France; Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada; Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney; George J. Mitchell, Senate majority leader; Robert Dole, Senate Republican leader; Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Robert H. Michel, House Republican leader; President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union; Javier Perez de Cuellar de la Guerra, Secretary-General of the United Nations; and President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria.*