

sureing to the citizens of Israel.

*Q.* Mr. President, are you trying to caution against overconfidence with your statement in—by concern that Saddam Hussein may have a lot more staying power than was originally thought, or is it based on an upcoming land warfare that is apt to be protracted?

*The President.* No, I don't think there is any conclusion that he has a lot more staying power than anybody thought. But what I am cautioning against is a mood of euphoria that existed around here yesterday because things went very, very well—from a military standpoint, exceptionally well. This was received all around the world with joy, but I just would caution again that it isn't going to be that easy all the time. But we have not changed our assessment as to how difficult the task ahead is.

*Q.* Sir, you said the Israelis have shown restraint. Are you confident that they will show restraint?

*The President.* Well, we are working on that, and I am very hopeful that they will. They've been most cooperative. Secretary Baker talked to Prime Minister Shamir last night. I'll probably be on the phone with him in not so many minutes from now, and I could answer the question better after that. But I think they realize the complexity of this situation; we certainly do. But whatever happens, I'm convinced that this coalition will hold together.

*Q.* Sir, will you be able to tell Prime Minister Shamir with any confidence that you have knocked out these missile sites?

*The President.* Well, the problem, John [John Cochran, NBC News], on that is we can tell him with confidence what we've done in terms of some of the missile sites but not all, because you're dealing with mobile missiles that can be hidden.

I'm getting a little off of my turf here because I've vowed to permit the Defense Department to respond to these military questions. But I think that one is rather clear—that when you can hide a mobile missile the way they've done, it's awfully hard to certify that all of them have been taken care of.

*Q.* Mr. President, granted you say that there are some rough days ahead. But there's also been a considerable amount of

discussion as to the relatively unexpectedly low rate of response on the part of the Iraqis—you've had some briefings on this. What are your thoughts? What do you think explains this?

*The President.* Well, I don't know. But my thoughts are that as each hour goes by, they're going to be relatively less able to respond. And I say that with no bravado. I just simply say that because that's what's happening over there.

So, he may well have been holding his mobile missiles back, for example—wheeling them out there when he thinks they will be undetected and then firing a few of these missiles into the heart of downtown Haifa to try to make some political statement. But there may be some more of that ahead for—maybe aimed at other countries. Who knows? But in terms of his ability to respond militarily, I can guarantee the world that, as every hour goes by, he is going to be less able to respond, less able to stand up against the entire world—the world opinion as expressed in these United Nations resolutions.

*Q.* Mr. President, if I may follow: Do you have any hard intelligence information that would indicate to you that there is indeed still a live chemical weapons threat from Saddam Hussein?

*The President.* I'd have to refer that to the—well, I would expect there is a threat because chemical weapons have been dispersed. He's used them on his own people. And that's something that our troops have been warned against, the people of Israel have been warned against, obviously, and others in the area have been warned against. So I can't say that every chemical weapon has been destroyed. But I think I said the other night in the speech from—comments from the Oval Office there that his ability to make chemical weapons will not exist. I can't tell you exactly where that stands, but I would refer you to the Pentagon.

*Mr. Fitzwater.* Final question, Please.

*The President.* This is the last one?

*Q.* No. No.

*Q.* Awww.

*The President.* It's the new me. I'm going to do exactly what Marlin says on this