

# United States Policy on Iraqi Aggression Resolution

October 1, 1990

House Joint Resolution 658

101st CONGRESS

2d Session

## JOINT RESOLUTION

To support actions the President has taken with respect to Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and to demonstrate United States resolve.

Whereas the Government of Iraq without provocation invaded and occupied the territory of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, has brutalized the population of Kuwait, has taken large numbers of innocent hostages, and has disregarded the rights of diplomats, all in clear violation of international law and the norms of international conduct;

Whereas Iraq's actions have caused great suffering among the hundreds of thousands of innocent people who have been displaced by this crisis;

Whereas the President condemned Iraq's unprovoked and naked aggression and undertook a series of actions, including imposing comprehensive economic sanctions on Iraq and freezing Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets in the United States;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council in a series of resolutions condemned these actions as blatantly unlawful, imposed mandatory economic sanctions (including maritime and air embargoes) designed to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, called on all states to take appropriate measures to ensure that these sanctions are enforced, called for the immediate release of all hostages, strongly condemned aggressive acts perpetrated by Iraq against diplomatic premises and personnel in Kuwait, and reaffirmed the right of individual and collective self-defense in this situation;

Whereas the President, in response to requests from governments in the region and in exercise of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defense as specified in the Charter of the United Nations, has deployed United States Armed Forces into and around the Arabian Peninsula as part of a multinational force that includes Arab, Islamic, nonaligned, North Atlantic Treaty Organization members, and other states to deal with this armed aggression, to protect American lives, and to assist in enforcement of sanctions and the defense of friendly states in the region;

Whereas friends and allies have provided critical leadership in, and support for, the international efforts to impose sanctions on Iraq and otherwise oppose Iraqi aggression; and

Whereas these actions have thus far deterred Iraq from initiating hostilities against other friendly states in the region or against United States forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the 'United States Policy on Iraqi Aggression Resolution'.

#### SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES.

(a) UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES- United States policy in the Persian Gulf, as stated by the President and hereby affirmed by the Congress, is directed toward--

- (1) the immediate, unconditional, and complete withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait;
- (2) the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government;
- (3) the security and stability of the Persian Gulf region;
- (4) the protection of American citizens abroad, and the release of all those held hostage by Iraq; and
- (5) the fostering of a new world order, freer from the threat of terror, stronger in the pursuit of justice, and more secure in the quest for peace.

(b) IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THE REGION- The United States and the international community recognize the importance of the security and stability of the Persian Gulf region and adequate access to its energy resources. The United States and the international community must continue to oppose Iraq's armed aggression against Kuwait, a flagrant violation of international law which threatens global economic security and constitutes a serious challenge to international efforts to build a stable and peaceful environment in the post-Cold War era.

(c) CONDEMNATION OF IRAQ--The United States and the international community--

- (1) should continue to condemn Iraq for its flagrant aggression, its abysmal human rights record, its support for international terrorism, its efforts to destabilize the region, its taking of civilian hostages, its terrorism of diplomats and violations of diplomatic premises, and its continuing efforts to develop and its demonstrated willingness to use weapons of mass destruction; and
- (2) should hold Iraq and its leaders accountable for such actions.

(d) SUPPORT FOR DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES- The Congress--

(1) supports the deployment by the President of United States Armed Forces to the Persian Gulf region in response to Iraq's military aggression;

(2) expresses its appreciation to and support for the members of the Armed Forces who have been deployed to that region and to the members of the Ready Reserve and the National Guard who have been ordered to active duty; and

(3) declares its support for them as they perform their vital role in the achievement of United States objectives.

(e) UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION- The Congress commends the President for his successful efforts to promote international consensus and cooperation in response to this crisis. The United States should continue its efforts to--

(1) strengthen the international consensus against Iraq's aggression, through broadening cooperation with the Soviet Union, other members of the international community, and the United Nations;

(2) obtain additional and substantial commitments of air, sea, and ground forces from other nations in support of the multinational forces deployed in the Persian Gulf region in response to Iraq's aggression;

(3) obtain increased financial assistance and other support from other nations for those multinational forces;

(4) obtain substantial tangible international assistance for those nations that have suffered financial losses as a result of their support for the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq; and

(5) obtain adequate international humanitarian assistance for those foreign nationals who have fled Iraq and Kuwait.

(f) OTHER UNITED STATES ACTIONS- The United States should also--

(1) continue to seek international consensus--

(A) to contain Iraq's conventional, chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, and

(B) to stop the export to Iraq of dual use technology and military components, including technology and components of direct or indirect United States origin;

(2) continue to seek international consensus to address regional problems of arms proliferation, including conventional weapons, ballistic missiles, and weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons), and to seek to ensure that conventional weapons transfers to the region reflect legitimate security needs of the recipient nation;

(3) continue its stated policy to maintain Israel's economic well-being and qualitative military advantage in the Middle East (including through means such as technology transfers and defense cooperation), and continue its efforts to achieve an Arab-Israeli peace settlement; and

(4) continue promoting respect for internationally recognized human rights and the rule of law, and support the development of democratic institutions, throughout the region.

(g) SUPPORT FOR ACTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS-

(1) COMMENDATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS- The United Nations should be commended for its timely, unified, and strong response to Iraq's armed aggression against Kuwait.

(2) COMMENDATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS- The member states of the United Nations Security Council who formulated a coordinated and unprecedented international policy response to Iraq's aggression through the adoption of Resolutions 660, 661, 662, 664, 665, 666, 667, and 668 should also be commended.

(3) AFFIRMATION OF RESOLUTIONS- The Congress affirms its support for those Security Council resolutions.

(4) INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS- The Congress calls on all nations to fully support and comply with the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and to strengthen the enforcement of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Iraq.

(5) CONTINUATION OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS- The United States and other members of the international community should continue efforts to achieve a diplomatic solution to the crisis in the Persian Gulf region through implementation of those resolutions.

SEC. 3. EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNITED STATES OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES.

The Congress supports the President's emphasis on diplomatic efforts, international sanctions, and negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations to achieve the United States objectives and policies set forth in section 2. The United States shall continue to emphasize the use of diplomatic and other nonmilitary means in order to achieve those objectives and policies, while maintaining credible United States and multinational deterrent military force.

SEC. 4. WAR POWERS FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that--

(1) on August 9, 1990, the President reported to the Congress that he had ordered the deployment of substantial elements of the United States Armed Forces into the Persian Gulf region in response to the threat posed by the actions of Iraq;

(2) in this report, the President stated that the report was being provided 'consistent with the War Powers Resolution';

(3) the War Powers Resolution requires, in sections 4(a)(2) and 4(a)(3), that the President report to the Congress whenever, in the absence of a declaration of war, United States Armed Forces are introduced into the territory, airspace, or waters of a foreign nation while equipped for combat (except for deployments which relate solely to supply, replacement, repair, or training of such forces) or are introduced in numbers which substantially enlarge United States Armed Forces equipped for combat already located in a foreign nation;

(4) the War Powers Resolution also requires, in section 4(a)(1), that the President report to the Congress whenever, in the absence of a declaration of war, United States Armed Forces are introduced into hostilities or situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances;

(5) consistent with that requirement, the President declared in his August 9th report, 'I do not believe involvement in hostilities is imminent'; and

(6) the President has consulted with the Congress and has kept the Congress informed with regard to the deployment of United States Armed Forces into the Persian Gulf region.

Passed the House of Representatives October 1, 1990.

Attest:

Clerk.