

Jan 16/1100am

THEMES FOR PRE H-HOUR PRESIDENTIAL CALLS TO FOREIGN LEADERS

-- I wanted to talk to you directly on where we stand in the Gulf.

-- It now appears conclusive that all efforts to pressure or persuade Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait have failed.

-- I had hoped that our Congressional vote of last Saturday might convince him of US determination, but this was not the case.

-- Similarly, Javier Perez de Cuellar did no better with Saddam in Baghdad than Jim Baker did in Geneva with Aziz.

-- Saddam may still believe we are bluffing, or he may have concluded that he can survive any war and emerge as a hero in Arab eyes as the leader who stood up to the world.

-- In any event, the time for speculation and appeals is over. I want you to know that military action will commence in ___ hours.

-- For obvious reasons of tactical surprise, I ask that you not divulge this information. [IF ASKED: Your commanders in the field will have been alerted through normal military channels.]

-- Let me just close by saying how much I have appreciated your support. This international coalition has been and remains remarkable. I am convinced that there is great opportunity here if we stay the course. It means a great deal to me personally to know I can count on you.

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THEMES FOR PRESIDENTIAL CALLS TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- I wanted to talk to you on where we stand in the Gulf.
- What I am going to say will be sensitive, so I ask that you be alone and that there be no one else listening.
- It now appears conclusive that all efforts to pressure or persuade Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait have failed.
- I had hoped that the Congressional vote of last Saturday might convince him of US determination, but this was not the case.
- Similarly, Javier Perez de Cuellar did no better with Saddam in Baghdad than Jim Baker did in Geneva with Aziz.
- Saddam may still believe we are bluffing, or he may have concluded that he can survive any war and emerge as a hero in Arab eyes as the leader who stood up to the world.
- In any event, the time for speculation and appeals is over. I want you to know that military action will commence in ___ hours.
- For obvious reasons of tactical surprise, I ask that you not divulge this information.
- I would like to send one of my closest aides, Bob Gates, to see you in your office between 5 and 6 p.m. today. He will have with him a copy of the report we were asked to provide in H. J. Res. 77, and will be able to answer any questions you might have.
- Let me just close by saying how much I have appreciated your support and counsel. I am convinced that there is great opportunity here if we stay the course. It means a great deal to me personally to know I can count on you and the Congress.