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## Cease-fire Initiative

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# Iraq seeks 'honorable and acceptable political solution' to Mideast war

*The following is a partial transcript of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council statement of Feb. 16 on Iraq's readiness to deal with the U.N. call for a pullout from Kuwait, and arrangements for a cease-fire. George Bush immediately rejected the call.*

Ever since the United States, Zionism and the United States imperialist Western allies came to realize that an Arab Muslim country, Iraq, was developing a force of its own, capable of being a counterweight to the imperialist-backed Zionism—a free, honorable force, resolved selflessly to tackle Zionist aggression and greed and to reject imperialist hegemony over the region—the United States, Zionism, and all colonial powers who entertained hatred against the Arabs and Muslims set about taking measures, making decisions, and waging campaigns of falsehoods and incitements against Iraq, with the object of thwarting the creation and development of this force and isolating and punishing Iraq, because it has faithfully, determinedly, and efficiently gone beyond the limits set by the United States, imperialism, and imperialist forces, for the states of the region.

The years 1988 and 1990 saw sustained campaigns in the press and other media and by officials in the United States and other imperialist nations to pave the way for the fulfillment of these vicious aims.

The year 1990 saw these campaigns escalate feverishly and mount day by day. The aim was clear to us and to all conscious Arabs and true Muslims, as well as to all the free people who believe in freedom and justice in the world. The aim was to pave the way for destroying this nascent force, and to tip the regional balance back in favor of the United States, Zionism and the imperialists. . . .

In the early months of 1990, these campaigns intensified, expanded, and assumed a hysterical dimension, with daily incitements to hit Iraq, liquidate its leadership, and deprive it of the means to achieve a revival and progress. Along with other imperialist actions, the U.S. took a series of measures, and made unfair decisions banning the export of whatever might contribute to Iraq's development and its scientific and

industrial revival.

These decisions called for an effective economic blockade, including the cancelation of food contracts in March 1990. It was clear that, in concert with the Zionist entity, the United States was preparing to hit Iraq's scientific and industrial facilities, and liquidate its patriotic, believing leadership. . . .

In the meantime, the United States set about tightening up the network of the imperialist alliance in the interest of forging a political and military U.S.-Atlantic alliance with the aim of dealing a blow to Iraq and controlling the region, when the opportunity presented itself with the lopsided balance represented in the Soviet Union become preoccupied with internal developments.

. . . The events of Aug. 2, 1990, in substance and goals, were not as portrayed by the U.S. and colonialist propaganda, or as were described by the traitorous rulers, followers of America. These events were a nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic uprising against the conspiracy and conspirators—an uprising against injustice, immorality, corruption, and imperialist-Zionist-colonialist hegemony of the region. . . .

Thus the imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic alliance revealed its true goals and intentions from the very first hours of these events. The alliance massed armies and forces, and organized the biggest and most malicious campaigns of misinformation, lies, and deception witnessed by the world in the modern age.

This reckless and sly alliance of imperialists, Zionists and NATO recruited the United Nations in order to issue against Iraq, with unprecedented speed, a series of unjust and unprecedented resolutions, whereas this organization had failed over the decades to respond to the simplest of demands by the Arab countries and to safeguard the simplest rights of the Palestinian Arabs. . . .

Human history in its entirety contains no such alliance in which the United States, two other big powers and a host of other countries, whose number is 30, joined forces against Iraq, the struggling, the brave, the forbearing, whose population does not exceed 18 million.

Over the past month, the United States and its allies, along with the Zionist entity, which has taken part in the aggression from the beginning, launched savage and destructive raids on the Iraqi people, on their economic, scientific, cultural, and service property, and also on their religious centers and the sites of ancient civilization in Iraq.

These raids are unprecedented in history in terms of the enormous firepower used and in terms of the means of killing and destruction used in a manner that contravenes the United Nations Charter, the false international legitimacy, and the new world order, which they wanted to use as an order for U.S.-Atlantic hegemony over the world.

The United States and members of the unholy alliance sent their planes, which fire rockets from far away, and their long-range missiles to drop enormous amounts of bombs and explosives on women, children and old people in all Iraqi cities and villages, even the nomadic Bedouin in the desert. . . .

Their latest crime was the ugly and dirty crime of intentionally bombing a civilian shelter that killed and burned hundreds of women, children and old people.

The United States and its allies launched a dirty and cowardly war against a proud and brave people. . . .

How many strong and rich empires throughout history have fallen because they pursued the road of evil, cowardice, injustice, and decadence. This is the fate of the tyrannical America and its decayed system. It is the fate of Zionism and all the imperialist forces by the will of God. . . .

O dear Iraqis, O honest Arabs, O Muslims who truly believe in Islam, O honest and free men of the world. Proceeding from this firm and right feeling and this assessment of the nature of the showdown, and in order to rob the evil U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic alliance of the opportunity to achieve their premeditated goals, and in appreciation of the Soviet initiative conveyed by an envoy of the Soviet leadership and in compliance with the principles outlined in leader President Saddam Hussein's initiative on Aug. 12, 1990, the Revolutionary Command Council has decided to declare the following:

**First**, Iraq's readiness to deal with U.N. Resolution 660 for 1990, with the aim of reaching an honorable and acceptable political solution, including withdrawal. The first step that is required to be implemented as a pledge by Iraq regarding withdrawal will be linked to the following conditions:

a) A total and comprehensive cease-fire on air, land, and sea.

b) For the U.N. to decide to abolish from the outset Resolutions 661, 662, 664, 665, 666, 667, 669, 679, 674, 678, and all the effects resulting from them, and to abolish all resolutions and measures of boycott and embargo, as well as the other negative resolutions and measures that were adopted unilaterally or collectively before Aug. 2, 1990, which were the real reasons for the Gulf crisis, so that things may return to normal as though nothing had happened. Iraq should not receive any negative effects for any reasons.

c) For the United States and the other countries participating in the aggression, and all the countries that sent their forces from the region to withdraw all the forces, weapons, and equipment which they have brought to the Middle East region before and after Aug. 2, 1990, whether in land, seas, oceans, or the Gulf, including the weapons and equipment that certain countries provided to Israel under the pretext of the crisis in the Gulf, providing that the equipment is withdrawn during a period not exceeding one month from the date of cease-fire.

d) Israel must withdraw from Palestine and the Arab territories it is occupying in the Golan and southern Lebanon in implementation of the U.N. Security Council and the U.N. General Assembly resolution. In case Israel fails to do this, the U.N. Security Council should then enforce against Israel the same resolutions it passed against Iraq.

e) Iraq's historical rights on land and at sea should be guaranteed in full in any peaceful solution.

f) The political arrangement to be agreed upon should proceed from the people's will and in accordance with a genuine democratic practice and not on the basis of the rights acquired by the Sabah family. Accordingly, the nationalist and Islamic forces should primarily participate in the political arrangement to be agreed upon.

**Second**, the countries that have participated in the aggression and in financing the aggression undertake to reconstruct what the aggression has destroyed in Iraq in accordance with the best specifications regarding all the enterprises and installations that were targeted by the aggression and at their expense. Iraq should not incur any financial expenses in this regard.

**Third**, all the debts of Iraq and countries of the region—which were harmed by the aggression and which did not take part in the aggression, either directly or indirectly—to the Gulf countries and to the foreign countries that took part in the aggression, should be written off.

Besides, relations between rich nations and poor nations in the region and the world should be based on justice and fairness in such a way that does not put the rich nations before clear commitments regarding the realization of development in poor nations, and thus removes their economic suffering.

This should be based on the saying that the poor have a share to claim in the wealth of the rich. Moreover the duplicitous approach pursued in handling the issues of peoples and nations should be halted, whether this approach is pursued by the United Nations Security Council or by this or that country.

**Fourth**, the Gulf states, including Iran, should be given the task of freely drawing up security arrangements in the region and of organizing relations among them without any foreign interference.

**Fifth**, to declare the Arabian Gulf region a zone free of foreign military bases and from any form of foreign military presence. . . .