

## White House remains firm on deadline

WASHINGTON - The White House said Monday that Iraq will be living on "borrowed time" after today's deadline for withdrawal from Kuwait. The administration urged Saddam Hussein to take "dramatic action" to avert war.

"Everyone has to assume that military action could occur at any point" after Tuesday, White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said.

Pentagon sources said the number of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf had topped 400,000, an increase of 30,000 from the total announced last Thursday.

There was no sign that Iraq would pull back. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who met in Baghdad with Saddam Hussein, said, "I don't see any reason to have real hope."

"It's time to rally behind the forces in the field," said Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., who had opposed the congressional resolution endorsing the use of force. He said the time for debate was over, but warned there could be bad news from the battlefield if war breaks out.

As the U.N.-set deadline neared, Bush summoned congressional leaders to the White House.

"If conflict occurs, there will be full support for the men and women of our armed forces," said Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, who also had opposed the congressional resolution. "Conflict is not inevitable and we hope it does not occur."

Fitzwater said, "We all share a sense of deep concern and somber

anxiety about reaching this 15th deadline."

However, he said, "the basic consultations and decision-making that needs to be done preparatory to the use of force has essentially been done."

Speaking of Bush, Fitzwater said, "If the time comes, he is ready. I think the president has made up his mind. He is prepared to use force if that is called for and if that is his final decision."

Dozens of antiwar protesters marched in front of the White House. Police lined the tall, wrought iron fence and other officers were stationed on the lawn.

"Any moment after the 15th is borrowed time," Fitzwater said.

"We hope for peace at any point," he said.

"Every day that passes is a day for Saddam Hussein to choose peace over war. Time always exists for him to take dramatic action that would avert this situation," he said. "There's never a deadline for peace initiatives."

Secretary of State James A. Baker III returned to Washington after a nine-day journey that included an unproductive meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. Baker also consulted with a dozen leaders of U.S. allies in the international effort against Iraq.

Baker expressed hope that "as the clock ticks down to midnight Jan. 15th that there will be an opportunity to resolve this crisis peacefully and politically."

"That opportunity now must come from Baghdad," he said.

Yemen offered a plan aimed at resolving the crisis, and Algeria also was reported to be readying a peace mission.

"We encourage peace initiatives at any point," Fitzwater said. "We won't turn off anybody."

The spokesman said that Bush was "involved in making a final search for information or any glimmer of hope that might be there with regard to Saddam Hussein pulling out of Kuwait."

Fitzwater said all Americans should be out of Iraq by Tuesday.

"We ask the American people to pray for our country and pray for our troops over there and we will all wait and hope for the best," he said.

### Many Americans remain in Iraq

About 500 American citizens remain in Iraq and Kuwait, staring war in the eye as zero hour approaches.

Elizabeth Girard's daughter is among them. And her son, an Air Force fighter pilot, is on alert in Saudi Arabia. Do not tell Mrs. Girard the Persian Gulf crisis is only about oil. "It's about much more than that. These are real people," she said Monday from Worcester, Mass. "This is my son and my daughter."

The State Department estimates about 300 U.S. passport holders are in Kuwait and about 180 are in Iraq. The majority are women and their children, many of whom carry dual citizenship.

Some wives refuse to leave their husbands behind; some may be held against their will. Many have chosen to stay in order to fight for Kuwait, and for their principles. Others have no where else to go.

"One woman had just recently buried her 4-year-old," said Mary Kondrat, who escaped to Boyne City, Mich., with her husband and four young children. "And somehow she just couldn't leave him there alone."

But if war breaks out, those who have stayed behind face death in the crossfire. Civilians in hiding must rely on homemade basement bomb shelters and gas masks made of charcoal wrapped in cotton.

Many others with ties to Kuwait, including former hostages released last month after more than 4 1/2 months in captivity, said they support military action, even if it puts loved ones at risk.

"I'm frightened to death but at the same time I'm proud of her," said Mary, a Midwestern woman who asked that her identity be withheld to protect her sister, brother-in-law and three teen-age nephews hiding in Kuwait.

## Experts: Initial action key to victory

WASHINGTON - Ultimate victory over Saddam Hussein's troops in a Persian Gulf war would depend on how swiftly, and with what levels of devastation, U.S.-led forces can break down Iraqi resistance at the start, military experts say.

The first days, when massive U.S. air power would be sent against Iraq's missile sites and airfields, would be crucial, analysts say. A war dragging on for months would mean mounting American casualties, worldwide economic hardship and a greater risk of Saddam's surviving to fight again.

The optimists say Iraq can be crushed in days. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, returned from a gulf tour to proclaim, "If there is a war, it will be a short one that will last no more than five days." Taking a less sanguine view was Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf III, the U.S. field commander in the gulf, who cautioned that fighting could last for up to six months.

President Bush, who has stressed that Kuwait will not become another Vietnam, said he hoped "it would be over in a few days, but what happens realistically is hard to tell."

What is certain is that the war would start with savage air strikes against missile sites and airfields in hopes of preventing counterattacks against Saudi Arabia or Israel, followed by a blanket bombardment of supply and communications lines to isolate Iraq's troops in Kuwait.

Kuwait is 500 miles from supply bases in Baghdad, said retired Adm. Thomas Moorer, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "and there is no Ho Chi Minh

trail in Iraq, nowhere for trucks to hide."

Without a dependable supply line such as North Vietnam had during the Vietnam War, Iraqi forces in Kuwait, also under heavy air assault, would "deteriorate rapidly," Moorer said.

Retired Army Col. Harry Summers, an analyst with the Army War College, said this first phase, which might last a week or two, would be "very violent and very costly."

Iraq's air defenses are formidable, Summers said, and "we're going to see American pilots paraded down the streets of Baghdad."

The House Armed Services Committee chairman, Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., quoted military officials as saying 70 to 80 American and allied planes would be shot down in just the initial stage of attacks against targets inside Iraq.

Aspin predicted that the Americans, facing a battered and demoralized foe, would suffer about 1,000 deaths in a short campaign, although other experts put the death toll far higher.

Retired Adm. Gene La Rocque, director of the Center for Defense Information and an outspoken foe of U.S. military action in the gulf, told Congress there would be 10,000 U.S. deaths in a six-month war with Iraq.

The morale of Iraqi troops is a big unknown in estimating how long war would last. Saddam's army held together during the 1980-88 war with Iran, which killed up to 1 million people on both sides. This time, however, the Iraqis would be short of supplies, facing an enemy with vastly superior weapons and



Sources: The New York Times, AP research AP/Martha P. Hernandez, Pat Lyons

defending not their homeland but Kuwait.

Saddam's survival might depend on keeping his troops in the field while inflicting heavy damage on the Americans.

He's gambling that America's tolerance for bloodshed and economic hardship would be low, and that his standing in the Arab world would grow the longer he defies the mighty U.S. military.

### Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Eric Planner 472-1756  
Managing Editor: Victoria Ayotte  
Assoc. News Editors: Jana Pedersen, Emily Rosenbaum, Bob Nelson, Jennifer O'Clarka, Diane Brayton, Paul Domeier  
Editorial Page Editor: Julie Naughton  
Wire Editor: Don Walton 473-7301  
Copy Desk Editor:  
Sports Editor:  
Arts & Entertainment Editor:  
Professional Adviser:

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1753 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Bill Vobejda, 436-9993. Subscription price is \$45 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1991 DAILY NEBRASKAN

## Soviet president defends actions in Lithuania

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. (AP) - President Mikhail S. Gorbachev Monday defended the bloody military assault on Lithuania and said he learned about it only after a local military commander executed it.

Soviet troops seized another key broadcasting facility in Vilnius. Lithuanian officials said the action violated an agreement to reduce tensions in the republic following Sunday's attack that killed 14 people and injured 230. Troops control eight buildings in and around the capital.

Gorbachev's statement that he was not in on the decision to use force called into question how strongly he controls the Soviet military.

In his first public comments on the weekend storming of Lithuania's radio and TV transmitter, Gorbachev expressed no sorrow or regret over the loss of life, except to say it was "a tragic development" that the Kremlin

did not want.

He told the Supreme Soviet legislature in Moscow that it was "a defensive action."

"The manner of defense was decided by the commandant," Gorbachev told reporters during a break in the session.

"He reported to a deputy commander of the military district... I learned only in the morning, the early morning, when they got me up. When it happened, no one knew," Gorbachev said.

Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo, whose troops participated in Sunday's attack, told parliament: "No one from the center gave an order" to use force.

Gorbachev said Lithuanian "workers and intellectuals" complaining of anti-Soviet broadcasts had tried to talk to the republic's parliament, but were refused and allegedly beaten. Then, he said, they asked the military

commander in Vilnius to "give us protection."

Pugo also said the committee had asked Soviet military officials in Vilnius to defend its members massed outside the television tower.

Gorbachev severely criticized Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, telling lawmakers they had "a very unproductive" telephone conversation Monday.

"From that conversation, I have the impression that it will be very difficult to find ways to conduct dialogue at a time when the republic is led by such people," Gorbachev said.

Landsbergis said the conversation "was productive enough," and he suggested they maintain contact or even meet.

"Even if their forces killed our people... even though people say we talk with murderers, and they are

murderers, we will talk," Landsbergis said. Yazov said he issued orders early Monday that tanks in Vilnius not use their weapons and that troops be confined to barracks. The defense minister said that troops be confined to barracks. The defense minister said he wanted tanks removed from the downtown area.

The military on Sunday declared a curfew of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and put a commandant in charge of Vilnius. It forbade the use of photocopying machines, fax machines and amplifiers, banned most public demonstrations and authorized the military to make spot checks.

Pugo described the measures as a state of emergency.

Officials said the curfew was suspended Monday night.