

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**BRIEFING PAPER**

RELEASED IN FULL

FACT SHEET: PERSIAN GULF

I. U.S. OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

- o U.S. policy goals in Gulf remained constant under 8 presidents:
  - maintain unimpeded access to vital Gulf oil
  - deny Soviet access and influence in region
  - preserve security/stability of friendly regional states
- o U.S. Navy mission in Gulf since 1949 to protect U.S. flag shipping; outbreak of tanker war in 1984 reinforced this need.
- o Our agreement to reflag/protect Kuwaiti oil tankers demonstrates our commitment to protect our interests and those of our friends.
- o On Iran-Iraq war, U.S. pressed for UNSC efforts with teeth for cease-fire, return to international borders, peace with neither victor nor vanquished.

II. Our Themes

- o Appreciate your efforts to promote UNSC cease-fire resolution, and your recognition that SC must be prepared to back up resolutions with enforcement measures.
- o Pleased with HMG decision to increase protection of UK vessels in Gulf, shows shared western determination to keep Gulf open.
- o Protection regime for reflagged Kuwaiti vessels will begin in next few days. Appreciate your support for the arrangement.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer

lot #88D140, Box #5.  
The official visit of Prime  
Minister Thatcher July 17, 1987