

ADVANCE COPY

Prime MinisterGorbachev's
Statement on the
situation
SS.

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FM MOSCOW

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 1535

OF 180800Z AUGUST 90

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, ROME, PARIS, BONN, ~~situation~~,
 INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, ACTOR, BAGHDAD, RIYADH, CAIRO, UKDEL NATO,
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 INFO PRIORITY OTHER EC POSTS, PEKING, TOKYO, NEW DELHI,
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SIC

IRAQ/KUWAIT: STATEMENT BY SOVIET LEADERSHIP, 17 AUGUST

SUMMARY

1. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CRISIS GORBACHEV CONDEMNS IRAQ AND FEARS A CHAIN REACTION. HE CALLS FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE GULF CONFLICT.
2. SHEVARDNADZE SEPARATELY PLEDGES SOVIET COOPERATION WITH ALL MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.
3. EVACUATION OF SOVIET CITIZENS TO JORDAN UNDER WAY. SHEVARDNADZE REFERS TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAQ, AND EXPRESSES RELUCTANCE TO CLOSE SOVIET EMBASSY IN KUWAIT.

DETAIL

4. ON 17 AUGUST GORBACHEV MADE A SPEECH, MAINLY ON INTERNAL MATTERS, TO SERVICEMEN IN ODESSA - HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE GOING ON HOLIDAY ON 30 JULY. HE INCLUDED A SHORT PASSAGE ON THE GULF. THE FULL TEXT HAS YET TO BE PUBLISHED, BUT GORBAHCEV'S MAIN POINTS WERE:
 - A) A CALL FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO PREVENT ESCALATION INTO A FULL-SCALE MILITARY CONFRONTATION.
 - B) THE USSR WOULD ACT 'SOLELY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COLLECTIVE EFFORTS...WE COUNT ON THE REASON AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ARAB STATES AND THEIR REGIONAL ORGANISATION. WE RELY ON THE POWERS AND RIGHTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS AND SECURITY COUNCIL'.
 - C) STRONG CONDEMNATION OF IRAQ: 'WE HAVE WITNESSED AN ACT OF PERFIDY AND A BLATANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE UN CHARTER - IN SHORT, A VIOLATION OF EVERYTHING THE WORLD COMMUNITY NOW PINS ITS HOPES ON AS IT SEEKS TO PUT CIVILISATION

ON THE TRACKS OF PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT'

- D) NEED TO PREVENT A CHAIN REACTION: 'IT IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO STOP MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND PREVENT THEM FROM SPREADING TO OTHER COUNTRIES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO RESTORE RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW... THE USE OF FORCE TO REDRAW BORDERS, ESPECIALLY IN ORDER TO ANNEX A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY, THREATENS A PERILOUS CHAIN REACTION ENDANGERING THE WHOLE WORLD COMMUNITY'.
- E) JUSTIFICATION OF SOVIET STANCE: 'FOR US TO REACT IN A DIFFERENT WAY WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE UNACCEPTABLE AS THE ACT OF AGGRESSION WAS COMMITTED WITH THE HELP OF OUR WEAPONS, WHICH WE AGREED TO SELL TO IRAQ ONLY TO MAINTAIN ITS DEFENCE CAPABILITY RATHER THAN TO SEIZE FOREIGN TERRITORIES AND WHOLE COUNTRIES.'

SHEVARDNADZE

5. AT HIS JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH GENSCHER ON THE SAME EVENING, SHEVARDNADZE CALLED FOR 'ENERGETIC COLLECTIVE EFFORTS' AND SAID THAT USE OF THE UN MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE COULD GIVE 'A DIFFERENT WEIGHT AND DIFFERENT RESULTS' TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. SHEVARDNADZE SAID: 'WE ARE UNANIMOUS THAT ALL STATES, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY SHOULD PROMOTE AND TAKE ALL MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED TO THE FULL. THIS IS NOT AN EASY TASK AND WE ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN THIS RESPECT.'

6. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, SHEVARDNADZE:

- A) DESCRIBED THE PRESENCE OF US FORCES IN SAUDI ARABIA AS 'TEMPORARY'
- B) FORECAST FURTHER RESOLUTE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION IF THE CRISIS PERSISTED
- C) EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO CLOSE THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

7. MFA SPOKESMAN SAID ON 17 AUGUST THAT:

- A) FIRST GROUP OF 230 SOVIET EVACUEES FROM KUWAIT HAD LEFT BAGHDAD THAT MORNING AND WAS DUE IN AMMAN ON THE EVENING OF 18 AUGUST
- B) SECOND GROUP (123, INCLUDING 27 WOMEN AND 23 CHILDREN) REACHED BAGHDAD ON 17 AUGUST, WOULD LEAVE FOR JORDANIAN BORDER ON 19 AUGUST.
- C) THIRD GROUP TO LEAVE KUWAIT ON 19 AUGUST.

LOGAN

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