

PRESS DIGESTMain NewsGulf Coverage

Every front page has large and gruesome pictures of Saddam Hussein's TV appearance with the British boy known only as Stuart. The outrage expressed by you and Douglas Hurd features prominently. The approach of the deadline for Kuwait embassies increases tension.

Poll shows wide support for Govt actions in Britain.

Surrounded by a human shield of British children and their parents, Saddam tries to convince the world he is really a Nice Guy. You call it "Quite sickening" Express

"You oily rat" is the Sun's verdict. Gloating Saddam Hussein pats a boy hostage on the head in a sickening TV bid to con the world. You react with deep revulsion.

West reacts with revulsion to Saddam's chilling televised talk-in with his hostages. Bush, lost for words, says "I need some fresh air" Mail

Butcher uses British kids in sick TV stunt. Saddam's cowardly message to the West that he could surround himself with "human shield" hostages to deter bids to bomb his Baghdad lair Mirror

Wave of indignation sweeps Britain as Saddam tries to pass himself off as a kindly, fatherly figure. But he comes across as an OGRE Daily Star

"A caress of evil" is Today's headline. Bush points out that Hitler surrounded himself with children, too.

Broadsheets join in the attack: "British children in TV ordeal" - Telegraph ; "Saddam's hostage TV show" - Independent ; "Saddam wages TV war" - Guardian; "President puts on a friendly face" Times.



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Govt gets massive public support for measures taken in Gulf and backing for future tough military action -- even if it costs the lives of Western hostages. 87 percent support blockade, 86 percent back dispatch of forces Independent

Confusion prevails over likelihood of conflict in Gulf. Douglas Hurd plays chances down, but the French Defence Minister and the Israelis do not agree Times

"Maggie sends in tank-busters" is Star headline

London garage mechanics refuse to work on Iraq ambassador's BMW Sun

British stake in Gulf raised by dispatch of Tornados. Will fill gap in defensive shield; other forces could be sent later Times

RAF orders in nuke Tornados -- Today headline

Today claims victory in campaign to have petrol prices frozen

Petrol could hit £2.77 a gallon if war breaks out Sun

Chemical warfare suits used by British troops only give protection for 24 hours and reduce fighting effectiveness by 80 percent Mirror

William Waldegrave increases pressure on Red Cross by giving details of children taken at gunpoint Independent

Richard Cheney threatens military retaliation if Iraq moves against Kuwait embassies. Times

Jordan's refugee problem grows despite border closure. Scenes of chaos at crossing point Times

Permanent members agree formula for use of force resolution -- but Soviets show signs of hesitation Independent

Soviet Union still holding out against US and UK in struggle to gain backing for military action to back sanctions Telegraph



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Expressions of dissent to Bush's Gulf actions, ranging from mere bickering to bitter opposition, receive increasing attention in US media Telegraph

Kuwait offers to help pay for military action to expel Iraq Guardian

Sterling's newly -restored status as petro-currency sees it soar to nine-year high. Hopes of cut in interest rates Guardian

Hair-trigger tension in the Gulf and high oil prices cause disarray in financial markets. Fears that a war would destroy Saudi oil export capacity FT

Opec struggles to arrange a meeting to heal divisions FT

Sales of poison gas antidotes rise on war fears FT

UN to help Jordan with cost of sanctions FT

Venezuela increases oil production FT

US angry that Soviet advisers remain in Iraq; they may be breaking sanctions Guardian

US air power is inadequate to deliver a decisive blow against Saddam, says top Israel military correspondent Guardian

Other News

Tax "time -bomb" made Govt drop Hanson bid for Powergen Telegraph

More than 200 British lambs burned alive in terrifying attack on lorry by French farmers campaigning to stop imports Today

London has overtaken Los Angeles as smog capital of world, Today survey shows

Shell admits it is losing millions a day in N Sea rig dispute Independent



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BA grounds Boeing 767 fleet after wing cracks are found Telegraph

Nine out of ten Britons are satisfied with their lives -- but 65 percent think our quality of life lags behind Europe Independent

Property slump sends London Docklands Development Corp into red Guardian

Britain accused of being Europe's leading defender of smoking,; Govt appeases the cigarette companies, says director of Coronary Prevention Group Telegraph

Women motorists warned after double rape of motorway breakdown victim Telegraph

Colin Moynihan predicts wind power could generate up to 10 percent of electricity consumption by 2025 Telegraph

Egyptians struggle to rescue tens of thousands of its refugees stranded in Aqaba in flight from Iraq Telegraph

Expatriate engineer claims FCO said chance of invasion was "very remote", just days before it happened Independent

Most countries order diplomats to stay in Kuwait despite Iraqi threats. EC ambassadors to gather in one place tonight to highlight the move Independent

US economic crisis limits its options in the Gulf. Choice between war of attrition and quick strike could be influenced by financial considerations Independent



EDITORIAL SUMMARYFRIDAY 24 AUGUST 1990

The Telegraph leader page features a by-lined piece from the Foreign Secretary, headlined "Saddam Hussein: Standing up to the bully of Iraq".

The leader itself questions Soviet intentions in the Gulf, but takes heart at the fact that the Soviet military advisers are now to leave Iraq. The Russians are standing four square behind the international action to counter aggression, it concludes, and only a few years ago, such support would have been unthinkable

The Independent says the British people are prepared for a just war in the Gulf. The leader says there is much here to comfort you; you have enough public support both for your analysis of British interests and for the measures you have taken to promote them. However, the piece says that the incident that sparks the war will come a long time before the blockade works, though this may not matter to the Government as long as the war is quickly won.

The Times describes the Saddam TV show as a cynical charm offensive; the iron fist will be back on display today as the Kuwait embassies are closed. On the question of oil supply the European Commission should draw up plans to avoid a recession, and a meeting of the G7, which was proposed by Jacques Delors, could provide strategic guidance. "It should now be convened".

The Guardian says that the British involvement in the Gulf is one of those rare occasions when the right thing to do is also visibly in our own best interests. The West should do all it can to help King Hussein by showing proper understanding of his position.

Away from the Gulf, the Guardian says that the PowerGen "volt-farce" follows a bleak rejection by Hanson. "PowerGen in time may float: but it could sink some reputations" says the leader.

In the Financial Times the leader says you have limited yourself to calling for petrol prices to be no higher than usual, which it finds interesting as the market forces theory is tested and found wanting. Historic costs have no relevance to pricing today, says the leader, which concludes that the Government, if it is seeking to contain the increase in the price of oil, should use stocks and taxation. An embargo and the subsequent frustration of the price would be a mistake.



The Sun highlights the fact that some mechanics have refused to work on the Iraqi Ambassador's BMW and says it backs them, even if their bosses don't. The BMW dealership should "put the country before making money from its enemies"

The Mirror looks at the rises given to county court baliffs, and says that every cloud has a silver lining - but only for the baliff's men under your government.

The Daily Mail says that Saddam's smarmy manner on TV is humbag of the most sickening kind. He should realise now that only by "disgorging the fruits of his conquest" and compensating his victims can he achieve the peace he claim to crave.

The Daily Star tried to get copies of its paper down to the Gulf, but was thwated by "the tea-swilling wallies of Whitehall" (ie, MOD). The paper even went as far as to produce a special version with no page three, but MOD still said no.