

PRESS DIGEST

Main News

Remarkable degree of unity in Helsinki gives new hope for the world - the clear message to Saddam Hussain is to get out of Kuwait.

Only Telegraph leads with Summit split over use of force.

Guardian - Saddam given last chance.

Iraq, in reaction to outcome, says Bush is "possessed by evil spirits" for refusing to link settlement of Gulf crisis with Palestinian issue.

Sun says Gorbachev, in private telephone call to you before Helsinki, said he would not do anything to stop West going to war against Iraq if blockade fails.

One of Hussain's chemical plants reported blown up. Feared that 72 Britons held there.

Hussain executes three bodyguards conspiring to kill him Express.

Iraq running short of food as blockade bites.

Foreign Secy urges Japan to send troops to Gulf.

US Gulf force tops 155,000.

Iraqi airliner brings home, among others, another 186 British women and children - likely to be last major airlift of its kind.

GULF COMMENT

Express - The display of unity in Helsinki has an unmistakable message for Saddam Hussain - he is on his own. But it says the Summit was altogether too relaxed about Russian advisers in Iraq.

Sun sees new dawn of hope for world out of Helsinki. With trust in place of suspicion, friendship instead of enmity, the West and East camps now have chance to build a safe, peaceful and prosperous new world.

Mirror - The most remarkable show of friendship, trust and unity the world has seen in modern times. The first real fruit of the ending of the Cold War. Nothing left now but for Hussain to withdraw.

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Today says the body language of the Presidents said as much as their statement. On the fundamentals of resistance to Saddam they were rock solid. They have the makings of a great double act and they can make the world a much safer place.

Mail - Once their rivalry would have added one more fearsome twist to any Middle East crisis. Yesterday there were differences of emphasis but what shone forth was their common purpose to deny the aggressor his gains. The blusterer of Baghdad has never looked more isolated.

Telegraph - The most notable instance of superpower entente since the ending of the Cold War. But the difficulties of maintaining a united front should not be underestimated.

Guardian - Impressive display of togetherness which until recently would have been unthinkable. But it still remains most likely that a resort to military action, however much the result of Iraqi's intransigence, would tear apart the new superpower relationship. Another strong argument for being patient as well as firm.

Independent - The Summit served its purpose. Bush and Gorbachev were able to display complete unity on getting Iraq out of Kuwait.

Times - The Gulf confrontation now begins what could be the diplomatic preliminary to war. After rehearsing the arguments of the "anti-war party" it says "Heaven help us if, every time our resolve is put to the test, we find excuses to turn for home".

FT - Joint statement is confirmation that the international front remains solid against Hussain. Disagreements may exist over use of force but there is no ambiguity on the central issue. The declaration against aggression is couched in particularly strong terms. But the issue of use of force cannot for long be swept under the carpet. Their demonstration of unity has however boosted the chances Iraq will ultimately be forced to back down.

Economy

John Major wins backing for hard ECU in EC; Britain no longer isolated. "A major setback for Delors", Express. "Suddenly our Chancellor no longer seems an isolated figure", Mail. "Delors and his bureaucrats have lost the initiative".

Independent says only 3 EC Finance Ministers maintained full backing for Delors.

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Law & Order

Mail says some prisoners in Strangeways riot are to face a murder charge after death during seige of sex offender.

Suzy Lamplugh's parents say they know who killed their estate agent daughter - a man now serving life sentence for murder.

Environment

Environment campaigners dismiss, in advance of Wednesday's publication, Labour's alternative policy: it is, they say, woolly, ineffectual.

Welfare

Case of five families battling to win back 17 children from care after police in Rochdale, following three month inquiry, find no evidence of Devil worship and sex abuse.

Health

Breakaway group suggests 20% of dentists may leave NHS because of poor pay.

Your Interview

You intend to lead Govt into fourth election and may still be there at 70.

Maggie's on for a fifth term Star.

Mirror - Watch out, she may still be about at 70.

Guardian - Thatcher intends to stay on and on.

Sport

Robert Maxwell proposing to invest £12million in Spurs.

Foreign

President Doe wounded and captured by rebel group in Liberia.