

Statement of  
Ambassador Luigi R. Einaudi  
U.S. Permanent Representative to the  
Organization of American States

Persian Gulf

Meeting of the OAS Permanent Council  
January 18, 1991

Thank you, Madame Chairwoman.

As I believe all delegations have by now been informed, representatives from OAS missions are invited to join other members of the Diplomatic Corps here in Washington to attend if they wish a briefing at the Department of State today at 3:00 p.m. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs John Kelly will at that time brief ambassadors on the early developments in the latest phase of the crisis in the Gulf.

If I may, I would like to take this occasion to reiterate some of the points made by the President of the United States the night of January 16. I use his words:

"This military action, taken in accord with United Nations resolutions . . . follows months of constant and virtually endless diplomatic activity on the part of the United Nations, the United States and many, many other countries. . . . This past weekend, in a last ditch effort, the Secretary General of the United Nations went to the Middle East . . . He came back from Baghdad with no progress at all in getting Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait. . . .

"While Saddam stalled, more damage was being done to the fragile economies of the Third World, the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe, to the entire world. . . .

"The United States, together with the United Nations, exhausted every means at our disposal to bring this crisis to a peaceful end. . . .

"This is an historic moment. We have in this past year made great progress in ending the long era of conflict and Cold War. We have before us the opportunity to forge, for ourselves and for future generations, a new world order -- a world where the rule of law, not the law of the jungle, governs the conduct of nations. . . .

"We have no argument with the people of Iraq. . . . Our goal is . . . the liberation of Kuwait.

"When the troops we've sent in finish their work, I am determined to bring them home as soon as possible."

Let me add a final point. My government has from the start of the unilateral and unprovoked aggression committed by Saddam Hussein turned to the United Nations to join in formulating the world community's response.

I have been instructed to repeat to this body the commitment of my government to the United Nations resolutions on this matter and the commitment of the United States to the United Nations system in general.

We hope that this extremely dangerous conflict can be brought to an end as soon as possible -- and with as little loss of life as possible -- in accordance with the terms of the United Nations resolutions. We do not seek additional action at this Permanent Council session.

For the information of the delegations, my delegation has available here copies of recent United States government statements, chronologies and other documents dealing with this grave matter.

Thank you very much.