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STRIKE FORCE / U.S. MAKES SECOND CRUISE MISSILE HIT ON IRAQI TARGETS

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Washington - In lightning military strikes designed to make **Saddam** Hussein "pay a price" for unleashing his army against northern Kurds, the United States bombarded Iraqi air defenses yesterday, then returned to the same targets this morning to protect an expanded no-fly zone over the country.

After B-52s and offshore vessels fired 27 cruise missiles at missile and radar sites yesterday, President Bill **Clinton** authorized a followup strike when bomb damage assessments indicated the targets had not been taken out completely. This morning, another 17 cruise missiles were launched from three U.S. Navy ships and one submarine in the Persian Gulf, Pentagon sources said.

"This is a restrike," a Pentagon official said. "We have to go back and get what we missed."

Hussein greeted yesterday's attack defiantly, saying he would refuse to abide by any "no-fly" zones and urging his mobilized armed forces to resist U.S. "aggression."

There was initial sniping from Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole - toned down after a phone call from **Clinton**.

Clinton's actions also drew opposition or lukewarm support from several foreign governments. Administration officials said the United States acted alone out of its own oil-based strategic interests in attempting to deter Hussein from attacking Kuwait or Saudi Arabia.

"We must make it clear that reckless acts have consequences or those acts will increase," **Clinton** said in a statement he read in the Oval Office at 8:07 a.m. yesterday, about 6 1/2 hours after the first Air Force and Navy missiles hit **Iraq**.

Administration officials said **Iraq** had ignored repeated U.S. warnings to pull a heavily armored force out of minority Kurdish areas, where Hussein's army has been supporting a previously anti-Hussein Kurdish faction against a rival group backed by Iran.

In the first attack, two Air Force B-52s fired 13 of the cruise missiles, and two destroyers in the Persian Gulf fired 14. The weapons were targeted at surface-to-air missile sites, radar installations and command facilities in the south. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said in a televised interview that five people were killed in the attack, and 19 were wounded, including some civilians.

"Our objectives," **Clinton** said, "are limited but clear: To make **Saddam** pay a price for the latest act of brutality, reducing his ability to threaten his neighbors and America's interests."

Clinton said the strike was necessary to protect warplanes that will begin today to extend their post-gulf war patrols against Iraqi military flights from a southern area bordering Kuwait to new territory sweeping northward to the outskirts of Hussein's capital, Baghdad. **Clinton's** order expanded the "no-fly" zone from the 32nd parallel to the 33rd.

Another 5-year-old restricted flying zone affects **Iraq** north of the 36th parallel, shielding the minority Kurds from oppression by Baghdad.

Complicating the political and military situation is the fact that Iraqi forces apparently were invited by Massoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party to cross the 36th parallel to dislodge soldiers of Jalal Talabani's Iran-favoring Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. The contending bands have been warring for months amid mounting U.S. concern.

American-arranged talks in London between the factions collapsed last week after Hussein's army pushed

north capping a two-week **build -up** and taking control of the administrative center of Irbil.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry expressed Washington's disgust with both Kurdish elements, terming their squabbling "tragic."

In a news briefing, Defense Secretary William Perry said that although Hussein's forces are causing trouble in the north, the new flight restrictions were imposed in the south because "we still see that as the principal threat." Emboldened by northern military moves conducted with impunity, Hussein might re-stage his 1990 invasion of Kuwait or attack other neighbors, Perry said.

It was the second time **Clinton** had rained cruise missiles on **Iraq** to punish Hussein while minimizing risk to American service personnel. In 1993, more than 20 missiles destroyed a Baghdad intelligence center in retaliation for an Iraqi plot to murder former President George Bush during a visit to Kuwait. Bush employed cruise missiles against **Iraq** in the 1991 gulf war.

In addition to launching missiles, **Clinton** declared that a multi-billion dollar United Nations deal with Baghdad "cannot go forward." This allows sales of Iraqi oil for humanitarian relief for Iraqi citizens suffering under a UN oil embargo. Administration officials said Hussein's seizure of Irbil, where aid to Kurds would have been distributed, forced suspension of the deal. UN officials had previously put the oil-for-food arrangement in abeyance because of the fighting.

UN and U.S. intelligence sources said Iraqi **troops** were not withdrawing from Kurdish country under the American pressure. While some army units have left Irbil, Iraqi **troops** reportedly are deploying for a possible attempt to capture the stronghold of Sulaymaniyah. But McCurry said satellite photos gave no indication that an attack on Sulaymaniyah was imminent.

The United States "cannot effectively remove **Saddam** Hussein's force from the north" without using ground **troops**, McCurry conceded. **Clinton** "did not seriously consider" sending ground **troops**, said McCurry, who didn't spell out the domestic political perils of mobilizing a U.S. combat force in the midst of a presidential campaign.

Rather than combat Hussein on his own fighting terms, McCurry explained, **Clinton** opted for "clipping **Saddam's** wings" through air power in quest of the "long-term strategic goals" of deterring Hussein from miscalculating and invading oil-rich neighbors.

Dole, who had said before the air strike that "weak leadership" and "inaudible warnings" from **Clinton** had allowed Hussein to move back into Kurdish lands, had a grudgingly supportive first comment on the missile launches.

In Salt Lake City, he said, "I trust this development marks the beginning of decisive action by the United States to curtail the power of **Saddam** Hussein, and the end of his defiance of the international community and of his atrocities against the Kurdish minority in **Iraq**."

Clinton called Dole about 11:30 a.m. and had what McCurry described as "a good talk" in briefing his challenger. Addressing the American Legion afterward, Dole muted his criticism of **Clinton's** foreign policy. But he also laid out a more ambitious agenda for anti-**Iraq** action than the White House mentioned.

Dole said U.S. objectives should be "the withdrawal of **Saddam's** Republican Guards from northern **Iraq**, the release of Kurdish prisoners, an end to interference by **Iraq** and Iran among the Kurds, re-establishing the UN nuclear weapons inspection effort and an end to **Saddam's** support of international terrorism."

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) welcomed **Clinton's** actions as "appropriate" because, he said, "History shows quite clearly that **Saddam** Hussein only respects power and the fact you will use that power." "I don't think we should be second-guessing" the president, D'Amato said, but he shied away from saying Dole had done so.

Congressional Democrats strongly supported **Clinton's** moves.

Rep. Rick Lazio (R-Brightwaters) said the missile strike was "measured and appropriate, and I support it, but I also think the incursion into northern **Iraq** was inevitable, given the fact that we have inconsistently applied military force."

House International Relations Committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman (R-Middletown) termed the air strikes a "regrettable necessity" resulting from the administration's "diplomatic deafness" in letting the volatile Kurdish factionalism spiral beyond control.

In self-defense, White House officials offered a detailed account of the administration's two-week diplomatic efforts to avert an emergency while preparing military options. Officials said Baghdad ignored notes delivered last week, clearly threatening "serious, grave consequences" for certain army

maneuvers.

1) Reuter color cover photo - A Tomahawk cruise missile fired by the Navy destroyer Laboon in the northern Arabian Gulf early yesterday. AP color cover photos (inset)-2) Bill **Clinton** 3) **Saddam** Hussein
4) U.S. Navy Photo via AP - A Tomahawk cruise missile is launched toward **Iraq** from the aft missile silo on the destroyer Laboon in the Northern Arabian Gulf early yesterday. 5) AP Photo-F-14Ds set for launch from the Carl Vinson in Persian Gulf.

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