

Thursday, September 13, 1990

Bush videotapes message

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush videotaped a message Wednesday telling the Iraqi people he has "no quarrel" with them and they should blame any hardship from the Mideast crisis on their own government, the White House said.

On the eight-minute tape, which the White House hopes will be broadcast unedited in Iraq, Bush says the U.S. military is in the Persian Gulf only to defend Saudi Arabia from Iraqi aggression.

"We want a peaceful resolution," Bush says on the tape, according to spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. "We want peaceful coexistence with the people of Iraq."

The White House held off releasing a transcript, but Fitzwater gave an overview of Bush's comments.

The president's address was intended to create internal problems for Hussein by emphasizing Iraq's isolation in the world community as a result of the invasion of Kuwait. Bush has said previously he would not be unhappy if the people of Iraq removed Hussein from power, and the address stressed that Iraqis are paying a heavy price for his actions.

The president consulted with Arab specialists, and met twice with

State Department and National Security Council officials to come up with the wording, Fitzwater said.

The Arab specialists were asked to look at the wording "to make sure that the tone of it translates well into Arabic," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "You can write a speech that sounds perfectly good to Western ears," but might

"We want a peaceful resolution. We want peaceful coexistence with the people of Iraq."

— President Bush

not convey the right impression in Arabic, the official said.

Fitzwater described the message as "a very candid but personal description of our goals and our objectives in the region."

"The president was forthright and didn't stage anything, just gave a direct message," said Sig Rogich, Bush's assistant for media consulta-

tion who produced the tape for the president.

The White House worked Wednesday on adding Arab subtitles and audio translation to the tape before sending it to the Iraqi ambassador via Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

The Voice of America said in a statement that it was doing the translating before the tape is handed over "to forestall any excuses for not using the tape."

Fitzwater said although there had been no direct contact between the two governments regarding the videotape, "We expect that Iraq will

honor its invitation to allow this to be addressed to the Iraqi people, and we will ask them to provide us a air time within the next five days."

He told reporters that the White House will release the tape to the media after it is aired, or after five days if the Iraqis do not show it.

Bush made the tape after the Iraq government offered to send a TV crew to interview him and broadcast the interview on national television.

Federal courts permit cameras in civil trials

WASHINGTON (AP) — The policy-making arm of the federal courts approved on Wednesday an experimental plan to permit television cameras to record and broadcast civil trials in a handful of federal courtrooms.

The three-year experiment will begin in July and will be limited to two federal appeals courts and six trial courts. Judges who volunteer their courtrooms for the plan will have broad control over what the public sees.

The U.S. Judicial Conference, headed by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, approved the idea overwhelmingly by voice vote, conference spokesman David Sellers said.

Sellers indicated that Rehnquist spoke in favor of the experiment.

The conference, with 27 federal judges as its members, traditionally meets in private.

Sellers said only a few judges spoke against the experiment and that "the pervasive view is this is inevitable."

He noted that some members of Congress have been lobbying hard for the idea.

One of them, Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., promptly hailed the development in a statement distributed to reporters at the same time Sellers announced the Judicial Conference approval.

"The time for federal courts to permit TV news coverage in courtrooms has come," Kastenmeier said. "Technology that permits us access to world events also compels us to use that access to make our own government available to our citizens."


Forty-five states have approved the use of television cameras and, supporters say, there have been no adverse results.

Wednesday's action does not mean federal criminal trials will be televised. The Judicial Conference left intact a rule banning cameras in criminal cases.

Nor will Supreme Court proceedings be televised anytime soon.

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Oil companies react to appeal for more domestic exploration

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil companies are pleased to hear President Bush calling for more domestic exploration, but they said Wednesday it's going take more than words from Washington before they step up their drilling.

The American Petroleum Institute said Bush's support for increased exploration and oil company tax breaks echoes some of what the industry has been asking for. But it remains to be seen whether Congress will go along.

In a televised speech Tuesday night, Bush asked lawmakers to speed the development of oil reserves in Alaska and increase incentives for oil and gas exploration.

"In general, he was saying what we would like to hear, because our industry is in the doldrums," said James Merna, spokesman for the Independent Petroleum Association of America. "But he just didn't come up with the specifics."

Environmental groups did not wait for specifics to blast Bush's call for more oil wells, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, believed to contain the nation's largest untapped, on-shore reserve of crude oil.

"He's an old oil man, and all he can think of in terms

of the shortage is to drill more," said Dru Schmidt-Perkins, conservation analyst for the Energy Conservation Coalition in Washington.

Bush shows few signs of supporting the conservation measures that are touted by environmentalists as the solution to cutting U.S. dependence on foreign oil, Schmidt-Perkins said.

The oil industry says more exploration is part of the answer to reducing America's addiction to overseas crude. But despite the rapid rise in oil prices that followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 and the subsequent boycott of their oil, there has been no rush to find more oil.

The major oil companies say they would need to see higher oil prices in a more stable market for a sustained period before they would bolster their drilling plans. Majors account for a small proportion of the wells that are drilled domestically, but they tend to go after larger pools of oil in more expensive projects.

"We'll have to look at prices today, plus what is a reasonable outlook for prices in two to five years and even longer," said Michael E. Thompson, a spokesman for Amoco Corp. "Many of these projects are five- or ten- or 20-year projects."

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