

Storm

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try to keep prices stable.

The United States seized the first opportunity for a nighttime attack after time ran out on a United Nations deadline for Iraq to relinquish Kuwait or face war. The deadline expired at midnight Tuesday EST—Wednesday morning in Baghdad.

Saddam, whose armies overran Kuwait in a lightning strike 5½ months ago, had defied economic sanctions, threats of force and diplomatic appeals, declaring the oil-rich emirate to be irrevocably part of Iraq.

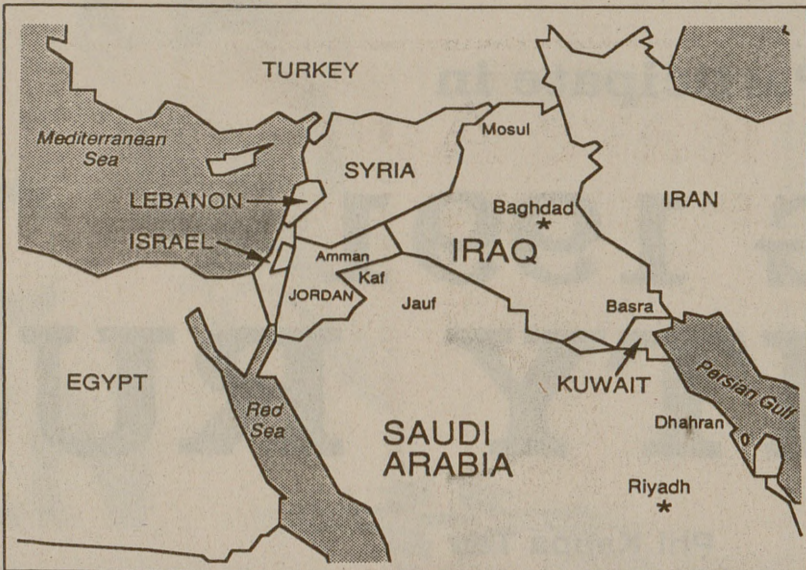
"Our goal is not the conquest of Iraq," Bush said in an address broadcast nationwide Wednesday night, after allied warplanes thundered off to seek out their targets. "It is the liberation of Kuwait."

In the Iraqi capital, air raid sirens wailed as wave after wave of warplanes filled the starlit sky, and red-and-green tracer fire erupted. "This feels like we're in the center of hell," said CNN's Bernard Shaw in Baghdad.

Television carried sound reports from Iraq via satellite, but telephone service was cut. American Telephone & Telegraph Co. said it had lost communication with Iraq.

At the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering promised that Iraq could avoid further punishment by beginning a complete, unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. The pledge came in a private meeting with the Security Council, according to a text of his statement obtained early today by The Associated Press.

In the United States, anti-war protests, which had grown in intensity in the days leading up to the fighting,



TIMM DOOLEN/The Battalion

redoubled in numbers and passion with the outbreak of war. Club-swinging police dispersed hundreds of demonstrators near the White House.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, briefing reporters in Washington, would provide no casualty reports from the initial attack. But he said the operation "appears to have gone very, very well."

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the allied offensive met "no air resistance" from Iraq's air force.

Powell and Cheney declined to discuss specifics of the operation—even to confirm the types of aircraft

involved. But Powell said Iraqi command and control centers were prime targets of the first wave of aircraft.

Only the United States, Britain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait participated in the initial attacks, Cheney said, although 28 nations are part of the multinational force confronting Iraq.

French military forces did not take part in the first assault, but a dozen French planes took part in the later attacks. France's defense minister said four French planes were hit by fire, but that all returned safely to Saudi Arabia.

Vandiver

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activities," he said.

Vandiver said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein might decide to surrender.

"Hussein could win by losing," Vandiver said. "By shaking his fists at the big guys and thumbing his nose at the West, he's shown the Arab world he has moxie. If his ultimate goal is to be an Arab leader, he could surrender and still fulfill his goals."

He said lessons learned from the Vietnam conflict aided in the planning of this war.

"We learned a lesson from Vietnam," Vandiver said. "Don't do a halfway job. Do it quick and give it

everything you got. This is a total commitment."

A total commitment to war initially sent oil prices soaring to \$40 a barrel on world financial markets after the announcement.

Ted Poth at Piper Chevron said he expected \$2 a gallon for gasoline at his station by this morning. He already has talked to his distributor who said it will increase by at least 75 cents.

"I didn't think at first it would go that high, but now, it might do it," Poth said. "It's crazy. Business has been flowing in steady since the announcement. It's panic buying."

Aggieland Mobil said it also had seen a steady stream of customers

since the attack was announced.

H&M Texaco on Texas Avenue had lines this evening and Diamond Shamrock on Harvey Road had cars three deep waiting at the pumps.

According to news reports Wednesday, Mobil, Chevron, Conoco and Unocal froze gasoline prices. Other companies are expected to follow suit. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, R-Conn., warned oil companies the American public will not tolerate oil companies' profiteering from the war with Iraq.

Wednesday, President George Bush authorized the sale of \$1 billion barrels of oil a day on the open market from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

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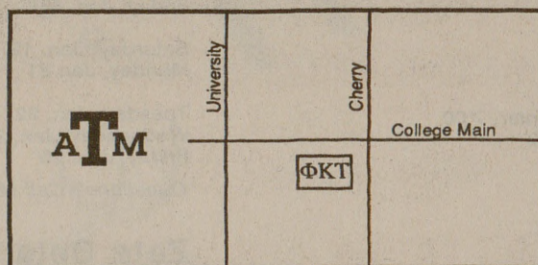
JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			16 Fraternity Life Seminar 7:00 225 MSC	17 Casino Night 8:00 Phi Tau House Prizes Bidded Off	18 Road Trip to Andrew "Dice" Clay Rides Leave @ 3:30 Invite Only, R.S.V.P.	19 ΦKT/ΔZ Pizza Party Mazzio's Pizza 5:00
20	21 Phi Tau Pool Tourney 7-10 Alfred T. Hornbacks	22	23 Invite Only Dinner w/φKT	24	25 Bidhouse 5-7	26

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