

AKADEMISCHES
FORUM FÜR
AUSSEN-
POLITIK -
ÖSTERREICH

UNION
ACADEMIQUE
DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES -
AUTRICHE



ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS - AUSTRIA

UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA

GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA

**VIENNA INTERNATIONAL
HISTORIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS
(HISTOMUN)**

09 - 13 March 2008

Preparation Paper

Security Council 28 November 1990

Decision on Kuwait

General Overview of the World at the Time

This is the year 1990, the 29th of November. The wind of change is a powerful reality of yet unknown dimension. The Cold War has ended, the Berlin Wall has crumbled, soviet-style communism has lost its grip over Eastern Europe where democracy raises its head, peacefully in the Velvet Revolution, bloodily with the execution of Ceausescu. The logic of international affairs is changing. Apartheid defeated, Noriega imprisoned, Yemen reunited, McDonalds opening in Moscow, the US feels bold enough to leave old paths and talk about a New World Order. Nobody knows, how Perestroika will change the Soviet Union and some are reminded of the risks by Tienamen Square.

One of the most complex and bloody wars of the twentieth century was fought between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq. About 25 countries provided weapons to both parties at the same time. A deadly combination of religious, ethnic and political conflict between pan-Arabism and revolutionary pan-Islamism was responsible for human minesweepers, WMD against civilians, 8 years of war and more than 1,000.000 casualties.

To make things worse, Iraq was in a deep financial debt, owing Kuwait \$4 billion from the war with Iran and Saddam's drive to create the most powerful forces in the Middle East. The financial crises lead Saddam to seek desperate measures to increase Iraq's income. Perceiving OPEC as bowing to Western pressures to keep oil prices low, and since oil was Iraq's only source of funds, Saddam had to do something to increase oil prices. Therefore Saddam claimed that Kuwait was illegally pumping more than its share from the Rumaila oil fields and by that depriving Iraq of rightful income. Furthermore the existing borders between Iraq and Kuwait had been imposed upon Iraq by the old colonial powers and therefore Saddam did not see them as binding. By invading Kuwait, Iraq would regain what was rightfully its own, including whatever assets Kuwait owned, such as Kuwait's gold, which would enable Iraq to erase its debt to Kuwait.

Many perceived Saddam to be the hero to lead the Arab world against western dominance and defeat Israel. The support for his endeavor to rally Arabs behind him was greeted in Palestine and on the Arab street, while most governments were anxious not to lose their power to Iraq. Analysts point to the danger Iraq would pose if the oil-reserves of not only, Iraq and Kuwait but possibly also Saudi-Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar would be under his control. Behind the scenes, Jordan and Israel were likely targets for the expansionist wishes of Saddam, who styled himself as Saladin, the (Kurdish) Sultane from Tikrit, who recaptured Palestine from the Crusaders.

In this situation the United Nations finds itself dealing with the delicacy of confronting a dictator with the potential to reach basically every target in the Middle East with weapons that include WMDs, from Jerusalem to the oilfields of Saudi-Arabia. It is a test. Will the superpowers take their responsibility in times of change? Will the Arab leaders form a coalition with western powers or with the people on the street? How will this influence the price of the very liquid that fuels world economy, oil? The US was quick to act on the invasion within the United Nations and managed to pass resolution 661 (1990) imposing economic sanctions by force (if necessary) against Iraq and Kuwait only 4 days after the invasion. On the other hand, the first question mark was provided, when Yemen was absent from the vote on UNSCR 660.

It is up to you to Influence the Course of History

Remember: you represent not only a state, you do so in the light of the historical setting sketched out in the lines above. Don't base your position on knowledge *not* available to the person you represent at the time.

We will try to find information that addresses the very need of every delegate's country assignment. Though you should be aware of the positions of your allies or enemies, the information provided here is rather general, and not country-specific. As with any conflict, this topic is controversial, you might stumble over sources that are very one-sided. Keep this in mind and use them only in accordance with your countries stance in relation to the respective bias.

Timeline

1899: Agreement between Britain and Kuwait of allowing the Sabah family run internal affairs in Kuwait while Britain would be responsible for Kuwait's defense and external relations.

1921: Britain establishes the Kingdom of Iraq that was made up of the three provinces of Mosul, Baghdad and Basra.

1922: The High Commissioner for Iraq delineates the modern borders of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Kuwait was given a coastline of 310 miles leaving Iraq with a 36-mile coastline.

October 1932: Iraq becomes an independent state under British protection.

June 1946: Kuwait exports its first oil barrel, since then oil is the dominant feature of the Kuwaiti economy.

1952: The pro-Western monarch in Iraq is overthrown in a military coup led by Major General Abdul-Karim Qasim.

14 July 1958: British installed regime overthrown by a group of Communists, Nationalists and Nasserists. US attempts to incorporate a pro-western alliance structure in Iraq come to nothing.

1961: Britain and Kuwait terminate the 1899 agreement.

19 June 1961: Kuwait declares independence. General Qasim lays claim to Kuwait and threatens to annex it by force. British forces rush to Kuwait and deter an Iraqi invasion.

8 February 1963: General Qasim is overthrown by Colonel Abdul Salam Arif and the Ba'ath party.

4 October 1963: The Ba'ath party recognizes Kuwait's independence in exchange for a large payment from Kuwait.

November 1963: President Arif ejects the Ba'ath party from power.

April 1966: President Abdul Salam Arif dies in an accident and is succeeded by Abdul Rahman Arif.

17 July 1968: A military coup d'état by Arab nationalist and Ba'athists army officers. Rahman Arif is sent into exile and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr becomes president.

June 1969: Agreement between Iraq and the USSR on Soviet assistance in exploiting Iraqi oilfields.

1973: A contingent of Iraqi troops briefly occupies a Kuwaiti border post.

1975: Kuwait rejects a proposal from Iraq to cede Warba island and lease half of the Bubiyan island to Iraq for 99 years.

July 1979: Al-Bakr resigns and Saddam Hussein becomes president.

23 January 1980: President Carter declares that any attempts by an outside power to gain control of the Persian Gulf region would be considered an assault on the vital interests of the US.

22 September 1980: The Iraq invades Iran. Shortly after the invasion Kuwait refuses again a proposal from Iraq concerning the two islands.

30 November 1981: US Defense Secretary Weinberger and Israeli Defense Minister Sharon sign an official Memorandum of Understanding on "strategic cooperation" between the US and Israel.

1982: The Reagan administration removes Iraq from the list of states supporting terrorism and establishes full diplomatic relations with Iraq two years later.

July 1986: Kuwaiti rulers dissolve the parliament and implement crackdown on opposition activity.

26 August 1987: US signs a five-year economic and technical agreement, accompanied by \$1 billion worth of food aid, with Iraq.

20 August 1988: The end of the Iraq-Iran war.

January 1989: Iraq publishes a debt repayment plan based on OPECs \$18 per barrel price.

1989: Kuwait refuses yet again to lease the two islands to Iraq.

5 December 1989: Iraq is said to have launched its first satellite carrying rocket and claims to have developed new missiles.

1990

28 January: French Defense Minister Chevenement meets Saddam Hussein to discuss French cooperation in Iraqi development and industrial projects.

8 February: US Congress is informed that Iraq is receiving large amounts of Soviet arms material through Eastern Europe.

24 February: Saddam Hussein warns Arab leaders that the collapse of the Eastern block countries will not prevent US forces in the Middle East. He also informs King Hussein and President Mubarak that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait must forgive Iraq's \$30 billion debt.

27 February: Opposition forces in Kuwait hold militant demonstrations demanding elections and reconstruction of the parliament.

30 March: The New York Times cites a US intelligence report which confirms that Iraq has built six launchers for modified scud missiles within range of Tel Aviv and Damascus.

28 May: Saddam Hussein accuses other Arab countries of waging an economic war against Iraq by overproducing oil.

26 June: Saddam Hussein warns Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates that they must stop production in excess of their prescribed quotas so that the price of oil on the world market could rise from \$14 to \$25 per barrel.

10 July: OPEC meeting in Jeddah; Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates agree to abide to their production quotas and Saudi Arabia agrees to reduce its production.

15 July: Iraq claims that Kuwait is pumping more oil than its agreed-upon share in the Rumaila oil field. Kuwait agrees to observe OPEC quotas.

16 July: The Iraqi foreign minister sends a letter to the Secretary General of the Arab League where Iraq accuses Kuwait of not only stealing Iraqi oil but also of attempting to reduce Iraq's oil income. The letter also claimed that the Kuwaiti government had set up military establishments, police posts, oil installations and farms on Iraqi territory. Kuwait enacts state alert.

17 July: Saddam Hussein threatens to take military action if Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates continue to violate their production quotas.

19 July: US Secretary of Defense Cheney tells reporters that the US is committed to militarily defending Kuwait if attacked. A spokesperson later explains that Cheney had spoken with "some degree of liberty". Kuwait rejects Iraqi accusations and accuses Iraq of drilling oil wells within Kuwaiti territory. Kuwait calls off state alert.

18 - 23 July: Kuwaiti cabinet meets to discuss the Iraqi demand for \$2.4 billion in compensation for the oil Iraq accused had been stolen by Kuwait from the Rumaila oil field. Kuwait puts its military on alert and calls for an emergency meeting of the Gulf Coast Cooperation Council (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman). CIA reports that Iraq has moved approximately 30,000 troops to the Iraq-Kuwait boarder. US fleet in the Gulf is placed on Alert.

24 July: United States deploys six combat ships to the Persian Gulf in joint maneuver with the United Arab Emirates. US State Department spokesperson states: "We do not have any defense treaties with Kuwait, and there are no special defense or security commitments to Kuwait."

25 July: American ambassador April Glaspie meets with Saddam Hussein where Saddam gives assurances that he would not use forces against Kuwait. Glaspie tells Hussein that the US has "no opinion on Arab-Arab conflicts like your boarder disagreement with Kuwait."

26 July: Kuwait agrees to reduce its oil production for oil prices to rise to \$21 per barrel at an OPEC meeting in Geneva. Despite of this Iraq moves another 30,000 troops to the boarder.

Late July: CIA Director informs President Bush that Iraqi invasion is imminent but that Iraq is only likely to take disputed oilfields and islands and reports that Iraq has 100,000 troops with tanks on the Kuwaiti border.

31 July: Negotiations held in Jeddah between Iraq and Kuwait where Iraq demands \$10 billion in compensation, Iraq walks out of the meeting claiming that Kuwait was not bargaining in good faith.

1 August: Iraqi ambassador in Washington is warned that Iraq must settle its disputes peacefully. The stage is set for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

2 August: The Republic of Iraq invades the State of Kuwait. The US ambassador to the UN calls for an emergency session of the Security Council, which passes resolution 660 (1990) condemning the invasion.

3 August: The Arab League condemns Iraqi invasion. Egyptian troops sent to Saudi Arabia.

4 August: British captives are moved from Kuwait to Baghdad.

5 August: Bush declares Iraqi aggression "will not stand".

6 August: Resolution 661 (1990) is passed imposing economic sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait, Yemen and Cuba abstain. Saddam Hussein says he has no intention to invade Saudi Arabia, US Secretary of Defense, Cheney, urges King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to request US troops.

7 August: US troops and aircraft sent to Saudi Arabia.

8 August: Iraq annexes Kuwait.

9 August: Resolution 662 (1990) is passed unanimously condemning the annexation and declaring it illegal.

10 August: Saddam Hussein calls for Arab rising against foreign intervention in Saudi Arabia. The Arab League condemns Iraq and sends troops to aid Saudi Arabia.

11 August: British forces arrive in Saudi Arabia.

12 August: Saddam Hussein offers withdrawal in exchange for Israel withdrawal from occupied Palestine and Syria from Lebanon. Bush rejects the offer.

17 August: Iraq captures and detains citizens of "aggressive nations" (western and Japanese nationals). Naval blockade of Iraq begins.

18 August: Resolution 664 (1990) is passed demanding that Iraq releases hostages. Britain removes its nationals from Kuwait.

19 August: Saddam Hussein offers to release foreign nationals if the US withdraws from Saudi Arabia and pledge not to attack Iraq, the US refuses.

23 August: Saddam Hussein offers to withdraw from Kuwait and release hostages in return for lifting the sanctions and access to the islands of Warba and Bubiyan.

25 August: Resolution 665 is passed and authorizes "commensurate measures" to enforce the economic sanctions against Iraq.

31 August: The Arab League supports UN resolutions.

5 September: Saddam Hussein calls for a holy war and that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Mubarak of Egypt shall be overthrown.

9 September: Gorbachev and Bush send a joint demand for Iraqi immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and release of hostages.

16 September: Resolution 667 is passed condemning Iraqi violations of diplomatic premises and personnel in Kuwait.

23 September: Saddam Hussein threatens Middle East oil fields and Israel.

25 September: Resolution 670 is passed imposing air blockage.

3 October: The Soviet Union launches diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis.

21 October: The release of elderly and sick British hostages is secured.

29 October: Resolution 674 passed holding Iraq responsible for any breaches of Geneva and Vienna Conventions.

8 November: President Bush announces that military strength in Saudi Arabia will reach 430,000.

9 November: Release of 206 western hostages is secured.

15 November: Joint US and Saudi Arabic military maneuvers south of Kuwait.

16 November: US Secretary of State Baker starts lobbying the Security Council members for a “use of force” resolution.

18 November: Saddam Hussein announces the gradual release of hostages over a 3-month period.

19 November: Iraq strengthens forces in Kuwait by 100,000.

27 November: President Gorbachev supports the use of force.

28 November: John Major becomes prime minister of Britain.
The Security Council reconvenes ...

PLEASE NOTE THAT EVENTS HAPPENING AFTER THIS DATE ARE NOT TO BE CONSIDERED!

Further Information

Bennis, Phyllis and Michel Moushabeck (ed). *Beyond the Storm: A Gulf Crisis Reader*. New York: Olive Branch Press, 1991.

Matthews, Ken. *The Gulf Conflict and International Relations*, London: Routledge, 1993.

Tripp, Charles. *A History of Iraq*, 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Resolutions regarding Iraq:

<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/IraqKuwait/IraqResolutionsEng.htm>

Map of Iraq and Kuwait:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/iraq.pdf>