

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
2009-0275-S

FOIA Number:
2009-0275-S

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential
Library Staff.**

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Scowcroft, Brent, Collection
Series: Media Articles Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 85044
Folder ID Number: 85044-006

Folder Title:
March 1992

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
V	0	0	0	0

MARCH

Nuclear talks are set with N. Korea

March 1992

By Frank J. Murray
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

TOKYO — The United States and North Korea have set a new date for a historic nuclear weapons conference, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said yesterday.

"I'm not sure of the date, but I believe it is later this month," Mr. Scowcroft said.

He also endorsed South Korea's cancellation of military exercises in exchange for North Korea's acceptance of international inspection of its nuclear weapons plant. That decision had full approval of the United States and merely followed through on an agreement President Bush and President Roh Tae Woo announced Monday, he said.

The nuclear weapons conference was rescheduled during a low-level session between North Korean and U.S. Embassy staffers in Beijing just hours after North Korea promised to implement inspection provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which it signed six years ago.

Other officials said the meeting could be held within 10 days, most likely in New York, as planned before North Korea postponed it last weekend to protest U-2 spy flights by the United States.

President Bush informed Japan Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of the developments yesterday, Mr. Scowcroft said.

march 12, 1992

Bush Responds To Nixon Memo On Russia Aid

Continued From Page A1

response to the collapse of Communism and the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The foreign affairs conference, sponsored by the Nixon Library in California, served as the occasion for the former President to make one of his most high-profile visits to Washington since he resigned the Presidency in disgrace in 1974 following the Watergate scandal. Mr. Nixon addressed the gathering of prominent foreign policy experts, foreign ambassadors and former Nixon Administration cabinet members at lunch. Then, President Bush addressed the conference himself in the evening.

In his evening address, Mr. Bush, making no mention of the financial constraints he spoke about at his morning news conference, told the Nixon gathering that "turning our back on the world is no answer."

"We invested so much to win the cold war," Mr. Bush said. "We must invest what is necessary to win the peace. If we fail, we will create new and profound problems for our security and that of Europe and Asia. We must support reform, not only in Russia, but throughout the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe."

But Mr. Bush, who hailed Mr. Nixon as "one of the greatest statesmen of the 20th century," confined his remarks to generalities and outlined no new initiatives or spending plans to translate his declarations into action.

Recalling Harry Truman

The 79-year-old Mr. Nixon, for his part, spoke for 30 minutes without notes or a lectern, and appealed to President Bush and Congress to join together in a bipartisan effort to transform the former Soviet republics into democracies. He said they should employ the same vision and energy that President Harry S. Truman used to persuade Mr. Nixon and John F. Kennedy, when they were both young Congressmen, to support the beginnings of the Marshall Plan 45 years ago.

"All of the pollsters are telling their candidates, don't tackle foreign policy, and particularly not foreign aid, because foreign aid is poison as a political issue," Mr. Nixon said. "They're wrong, and history proves it. In 1947, I recall vividly as if it were yesterday what Harry Truman did."

In that year, Mr. Nixon said, President Truman's approval rating was 35 percent, and the Congress was overwhelmingly Republican controlled.

"And yet, I remember Harry Truman, a fourth grade school boy,



President Bush said yesterday that he was now considering contributing to a multilateral international fund to stabilize the ruble. With him was Brent Scowcroft, left, the national security

— coming down before a joint session of the Congress and asking for millions of dollars in aid to Greece and Turkey to prevent Communist subversion and possibly Communist aggression. It was a very tough vote for two very young and both, as history later indicated, rather ambitious young Congressmen."

Kennedy and Nixon Together

The liberal Democrats in Mr. Kennedy's Massachusetts district were against military foreign aid, said Mr. Nixon. And the conservative Republicans in his own California district were against all foreign aid.

"Under the circumstances, however, after considering it, we both voted for it, and a majority in that Republican House and the Senate voted for that program and that was the program which later was developed into the Marshall Plan and later into NATO, which not only contained Communism but bought the time that was essential for Communism to fail."

The next year, recalled Mr. Nixon, Harry Truman won the election for President. What is more important, he added, is that that action by a Democratic President was supported by a Republican Congress.

"And then you have a situation at the present time, where we have a Republi-

Nixon recalls Truman in an appeal for helping Russia.

can President with a Democratic Congress with the opportunity to take action which would provide aid to Russia and the other countries that we have mentioned here which would assure the victory of freedom," said Mr. Nixon. "That is the question, then, that Americans must face today: political Americans, all Americans, and I think we know what the answer should be."

Warning of 'New Despotism'

The brunt of Mr. Nixon's argument today tracked closely with a memo he had circulated to friends and foreign policy experts in recent weeks, in which he stated that the United States and the West were missing a great opportunity to transform Russia and its neighbors to democracy by providing enough aid to insure the success of President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia. Without such help, said Mr. Nixon, "a new despotism" will take hold where

the Communists once ruled. The several hundred experts gathered for the occasion gave him a standing ovation, though, did not take it as a political figure of this period.

Yet his appeal for aid to Russia may break the virtual arms control of Mr. Nixon's speech, the clearest voice we have on foreign policy issues since the end of the Presidential primacy.

Whether or not it changes the behavior of the Russian aid qu White House has to some time.

"One thing Nixon the President the pro the Republican cor ahead with more aid said William Hyland Affairs Magazine what will Bush do w

BUSH CITES LIMITS ON AID TO RUSSIA

Responding to Nixon Memo, He Opposes 'Blank Check'

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 11 — Responding to criticism by former President Richard M. Nixon that he has not done enough to support democratic reforms in the former Soviet Union, President Bush said today that his Administration does not have a "blank check" to finance extensive aid programs.

Mr. Bush did say that his Administration was now considering contributing to a multibillion-dollar international fund to stabilize the ruble, a key ingredient for economic reform in Russia. While other Administration officials have said United States support for such a fund was under consideration, this was the first time Mr. Bush himself had expressed his interest.

Bush Response

Nevertheless, when asked about Mr. Nixon's criticism at a White House news conference, Mr. Bush said: "Where we might have a difference is we're living in a time of constrained resources. There isn't a lot of money around. We are spending too much as it already is. So to do the things I would really like to do, I don't have a blank check for all that. I think the question should be addressed to President Nixon."

Mr. Bush's White House news conference was held in the morning, just a few hours before President Nixon, in an address to a foreign affairs conference across town, repeated his criticism of the American and Western

Continued on Page A12, Column 1

NEWSMAKERS

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH PEOPLE IN THE HEADLINES

Exiled Haitian meets fasting dance legend

By Thomas R. Raber
USA TODAY

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — Dance legend Katherine Dunham declined a personal plea from Haiti's president-in-exile to end her life-threatening fast protesting U.S. policy toward Haiti's boat people.

Dunham, 82, met with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide for about 30 minutes Monday as more than 200 people gathered in her front yard in a show of support. Talk show host Jesse Jackson and activist Dick Gregory joined Aristide for the bedside meeting.

"We spoke to our 'Mom,'" Aristide told the crowd afterward, from Dunham's front steps.

"We have asked her twice, and

we asked her again today (to end her fast). We want her to be alive. But she wants to continue. We respect her will."

Against her doctor's advice, Dunham has subsisted on fruit juices and glucose since Feb. 1, when the USA began forcibly returning boat people to Haiti.

She has said she will continue until the United States has stopped the repatriations and has agreed to provide a military escort to accompany the deposed Aristide back to Haiti.

Dunham founded the first black dance company in the USA, and trained or influenced many of today's contemporary dancers.

Her fast has drawn an international outpouring of concern and



By James A. Finley, AP

SHOW OF CONCERN: Haiti's exiled leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide, left, talks with Katherine Dunham. At center is Jesse Jackson.

support.

National security adviser Brent Scowcroft replied to a letter of protest that Dunham sent Bush, saying the president "shared her concerns" about the Haitian refugees.

Dunham, a longtime resident of East St. Louis, has been a property owner in Haiti and a part-time resident there for decades.

Angela Williams, 53, an East St. Louis neighbor of Dunham's who attended the rally, said she was in-

spired by her courage.

"So many people are hungry — in this town and around the world — and for an older woman to bear that burden by choice makes her a hero in my book," Williams said.

Cora Thompson, 73, who was shopping at a nearby mall had a different view:

"I respect what she's doing. But you can't steer the course of this country by letting one woman's conscience tug at your heart."

Senators Press White House on M.I.A.'s

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 25 — A special Senate committee investigating cases of Americans unaccounted for since the Vietnam War has issued a subpoena to President Bush's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, demanding that he turn over documents the White House has withheld since January, Administration officials said today.

The documents being sought by the committee should, among other things, explain why the White House closed the books on most missing-in-action cases in 1973.

The Administration officials said the White House was talking with the committee and hoped to work out an agreement. Members of the White House staff rarely receive subpoenas, and they are usually rejected on the grounds of Presidential privilege.

Frustration with the White House has been reported growing in the investigating unit, the Senate Select Committee on P.O.W.-M.I.A. Affairs, which hopes to wind up by the end of this year what it describes as the most comprehensive review of missing Americans. The issue is blocking the normalization of diplomatic relations.

What the Senate Wants

The committee has received detailed requests for information about the handling of the issue since the 1970's, when Mr. Scowcroft was also national security adviser. George Bush was then Director of Central Intelligence.

According to copies of those requests, the committee is particularly interested in the decision-making process that led to an announcement in April 1973 that the United States no longer believed Americans were in captivity in Indochina. By then, the last American combat troops had been withdrawn from Vietnam and Hanoi had told Washington that it had re-

leased or accounted for all prisoners.

That public position, and on what evidence it was formed, is central to the renewed debate. The Senate committee has heard testimony in closed and open sessions that strongly suggests that officials knew in 1973 of credible reports of Americans still alive in Vietnam and Laos, but chose to put aside that information in an effort to make a clean break with the war.

Talking to Russia

The confrontation between the Senate committee and the White House comes as a new United States-Russia commission prepares talks in Moscow on Thursday on information now available about Americans missing in

Trying to fathom why the books were closed on P.O.W.'s in 1973.

the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The White House announced the formation of the commission on Friday.

The commission, which includes officials from the Defense Department, State Department and Congress, is headed by Malcolm Toon, who was Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1976 to 1979. A Russian military officer, Col. Gen. Dmitri Volkogonov, will lead the Russian side.

Senators John F. Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Bob Smith, Republican of New Hampshire, the chairman and the vice chairman of the Senate committee, are also members of the commission. They went to Moscow in February to lay the groundwork and

are not part of this week's delegation. They plan a trip to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia beginning on April 17.

What the Families Want

The persistent belief that a number of Americans might have been left in Vietnam has fueled a vociferous and dedicated lobby of families of missing service personnel who have continued to demand a fuller accounting. Several earlier investigations have not convinced this group that the whole story of the missing has been told.

Dolores Apodaca Alfond, chairwoman of the National Alliance of Families, based in Seattle, described in an interview today how her family was drawn into action on the issue by the case of her missing brother, Maj. Victor J. Apodaca.

A graduate of the Air Force Academy who spoke Russian, Major Apodaca was shot down over Vietnam in 1967. He was first listed as "possible P.O.W.," she said, and a former serviceman who monitored Vietnamese radio broadcasts told her he was certain that her brother had been taken to Moscow as a prisoner.

In 1989, her family received two boxes of remains and effects turned over by the Vietnamese as possibly his. The bones were found to be those of animals, she said.

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Alfond said, she was suddenly advised that her brother was now considered a "discrepancy case," meaning that the United States had questions about his fate that might be resolved in Vietnam. She does not know why there is new interest in his fate.

"Families don't believe anyone in the Government any more," she said.

Plea for Documents

Senator Kerry, a Vietnam veteran and a critic of the war who hoped as chairman of the committee to put the issue to rest, told reporters in February that a few months of preliminary research had convinced him that there was far more information to be uncovered than he had expected.

He said it was hard to understand how repeated earlier investigations, "dubbed the highest national priority, could leave so many stones unturned."

The committee has been able to obtain documents from the Pentagon, where a spokeswoman said today that officials were in daily contact with the committee's staff.

Senator John S. McCain, Republican of Arizona and a member of the select committee, introduced a provision in the 1992-93 defense budget that mandates cooperation with the Senate in turning over all requested files.

A Pentagon official, Alan Ptak, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for P.O.W.-M.I.A. Affairs, who has overall responsibility for policy on the issue since his position was created early this year, is now in Moscow as part of the American-Russian commission.

Administration Planning Aid for Ex-Soviet States

AID, From A1

Nunn (D-Ga.), Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) and two other senators who recently recommended an expanded U.S. aid program following visits to Moscow and Kiev. Late yesterday, Baker held further discussions with senior members of his staff on a new U.S. program. Baker has also talked about the plan with national security adviser Brent Scowcroft and Budget Director Richard G. Darman, and a senior official said there is broad agreement in the administration on the need for expanded U.S. efforts.

Nunn said the meeting with Baker left him "cautiously optimistic that the administration is going to become more assertive." Lugar said he has detected "an intention in the administration to move ahead much more comprehensively."

Lugar and Nunn emphasized, as did several administration officials, that it will be vital for Bush to take the lead in proposing a new program, and said senior Republicans as well as Democrats on Capitol Hill are ready to back him up if he does.

Bush, in a telephone conversation with Yeltsin yesterday initiated by the Russian president, discussed the Russian reform efforts and expressed strong support for Russia's application for membership in the IMF, the White House said.

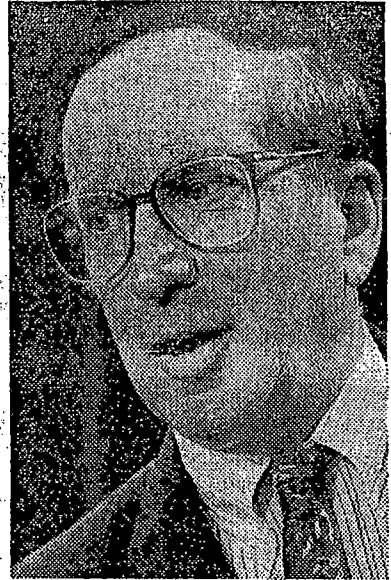
A State Department official said the climate in Congress for a major new aid plan for the former Soviet Union has improved notably since the outspoken remarks of Nixon in a memorandum and public meeting last week.

A speech in Los Angeles Monday by Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell (D-Maine), while critical of Bush for lack of action, invited the president to meet the bipartisan leadership of Congress to formulate "an effective, non-partisan policy" to help the former Soviet Union.

In the House, "we'll do whatever we can to take the politics out" of aid to the former Soviet Union, said Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations. Obey added, however, that Bush would have to explain "what the needs are and why it is in the interest of every taxpayer," and especially sell congressional Republicans on the necessity for action.

Among the elements of the aid package under discussion are:

- A U.S. contribution of perhaps \$1 billion to an international stabilization fund to support the ruble and other former Soviet currencies. Bush said last week that he supports such a fund in principle, though details are still being worked out.
- The \$620 million in emergency



SEN. SAM NUNN
... says he is "cautiously optimistic"

humanitarian relief and technical assistance previously requested by the administration in fiscal years 1992 and 1993 as part of the foreign aid program. It is not yet decided, according to officials, if this and additional funds would be proposed as part of a continuing resolution to extend the foreign aid program beyond its current March 31 cutoff or, as now seems more likely, as a separate bill standing on its own in Congress.

- Additional agricultural credit guarantees for purchase of wheat and other U.S. grains this spring. Recent requests of Russia, Ukraine and other former Soviet states come to about \$1 billion in new loan guarantees, in addition to \$3.75 billion extended since January 1991.

- Removal of a long list of Cold War restrictions on trade with, and assistance to, the former Soviet Union. A White House official said removal of such restrictions could add substantially to the success of Yeltsin's planned mid-June visit to Washington. Eugene K. Lawson, vice chairman of the Export-Import Bank, appealed to Congress yesterday to remove the limit of \$300 million in U.S.-insured exports to the former Soviet Union and \$40 million in U.S.-insured loans for energy-related exports. Without such limits, Lawson said, the bank could greatly expand guarantees for U.S. exports.

- Approval of a \$12 billion increase in the U.S. commitment to the IMF, a part of which would finance a major program for Russia expected to be approved by the international organization this spring. The IMF quota increase is difficult to sell in the current political climate, an official said, but "in the context of a large program, it may be possible."

U.S. Planning Full Aid for Ex-Soviet States

Prodding From Congress, Nixon Provide Impetus for Comprehensive Package

By Don Oberdorfer
Washington Post Staff Writer

After prodding from Congress and former president Richard M. Nixon, the Bush administration has begun preparing a comprehensive package of new U.S. assistance to Russia and other states of the former Soviet Union, administration and congressional sources said yesterday.

Among the elements under discussion are a stabilization fund for the ruble and other currencies, additional emergency humanitarian relief and technical assistance, more agriculture sales credits, re-

peal of Cold War restriction on U.S. financing and exports and, possibly, a major increase in U.S. commitment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

While money for such foreign assistance remains problematical in the current political climate, administration officials believe that congressional approval may be easier to obtain if they draft a comprehensive program and pitch it as a major national priority rather than continue to pursue piecemeal measures to help the former republics.

Since running into political trouble last fall, President Bush has had little to say

about aid for the former Soviet Union. In that time, the Russian government of President Boris Yeltsin has survived the winter and massive economic dislocations in better shape than anticipated and has maintained an impressive reform stance.

In the United States, meanwhile, political support has grown in both parties for an aid program that would take advantage of what a number of foreign policy experts have called a historic "window of opportunity" to eliminate the long-term threats from America's former foe.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III, in a sign of intensified administration interest, met late Wednesday with Sens. Sam

■ Russia is relaxing its strict monetary policy to keep inflation going.

Page A19

See A1D, A22, Col. 1

Powell Said to Oppose New Strike Against Iraq

IRAQ, From A1

ically motivated, and anything he does or does not do has the potential to affect the election big-time," said one official.

A political adviser to the president said a confrontation with Iraq has "enormous down sides now" and denied that Bush might order one for political gain. "If he uses military force and it doesn't work, he's Jimmy Carter in the desert," the adviser said. "If he doesn't do anything, he's a wimp and should have gotten Saddam the first time. If he does and it works, a lot of people are still going to be suspicious it was politically motivated to take our minds off domestic troubles."

Senior and mid-level administration officials yesterday described ongoing work at the White House and Departments of Defense, Treasury and State as contingency planning aimed at assembling options for Bush. At the same time, senior officials at both the White House and State Department said the president intends to proceed only as part of an international coalition, and almost certainly would seek additional authority from the United Nations before ordering a strike on Iraq.

"We are not going to go it alone," said a White House official.

Powell's resistance to the use of military force, shared by at least some of his fellow chiefs, is said to rest on the belief that imperfect intelligence and Iraq's demonstrated ability to move its weapons put "surgical" removal of the targets beyond U.S. reach.

Moreover, Saddam is unlikely to be intimidated by an air campaign that would necessarily be far smaller than one during the gulf war, and he might even be strengthened, one officer said, "by standing up again to this enormous military machine."

Powell's view puts him at odds, at least in emphasis, with national security adviser Brent Scowcroft, who was described by officials as taking a harder line on the need to demonstrate U.S. resolve and put an end to a pattern of confrontation and retreat in dealing with Iraq. These differences mirror the somewhat contrasting positions taken by

the men in the months following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

In the end, said a ranking Pentagon official, "there's only one person's vote that matters."

The president was widely described by White House officials as frustrated over Saddam's continued defiance and "disposed" or "predisposed" to take military action if a U.N. inspection team, which is due to arrive in Baghdad on Saturday, leaves Iraq March 29 without results.

At the same time, Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, who heads the U.N. commission charged with disarming Iraq, said that the March 29 date is not a deadline, and spokesmen for the State Department, White House and Pentagon yesterday emphasized that point.

Besides the military option, Bush's aides have offered a series of coercive and punitive measures to use against Saddam. They include seizing the \$1.5 billion in Iraqi assets frozen after the invasion of Kuwait. A senior official said yesterday that Bush has authorized the State Department to begin consulting other governments for their approval to take that action. The assets would be turned over to the United Nations to pay for expensive inspections and enforcement measures; dispatching of teams of U.N. inspectors to investigate and publicize human rights abuses in Iraq; and using U.S. warplanes to further restrict the airspace available to Iraqi helicopters.

Meanwhile, Marine Gen. Joseph P. Hoar, who succeeded Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf as commander-in-chief of the Central Command, has orchestrated his forces and deployments in ways intended to remind the Baghdad government of U.S. military might.

About a week ago, according to sources, an additional complement of F-117A jets—the centerpiece of the gulf war's air campaign—flew into a southwestern Saudi Arabian air base near Musayf. Their arrival was described as part of a routine "swap-out" of aircraft already in Saudi Arabia, but the planes they are replacing have not departed. Depending on the repair status of



President Bush conducts Cabinet meeting yesterday with Secretary of State Baker, left, and Defense Secretary Cheney.

the complex planes, there are now said to be 15 to 20 operational—nearly half the U.S. inventory—on any given day.

Also last week, the USS America brought its 85 combat aircraft and four support ships into the Persian Gulf, where no carrier had been deployed since Feb. 4. Also with the America is the Aegis cruiser USS Normandy, capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles. Numerous other Navy ships in the gulf region, including two Los Angeles-class attack submarines, are also capable of firing the unmanned Tomahawks.

Yesterday, in an unusual public announcement, an Air Force spokeswoman in Germany said that F-4G anti-radar attack planes were flying to the gulf region from the 52nd Tactical Fighter Wing in Spangdahlem to relieve F-4G's already in the gulf. Known as the "Wild Weasel," the F-4G fires HARM anti-radiation missiles and would be used to suppress Iraqi air defenses in the event of renewed attack.

Pentagon sources said significant portions of Iraq's air defense network—including radar installations, surface-to-air missile sites and anti-aircraft artillery—either survived the gulf war's extensive attacks or have been rebuilt since. The result is that any renewed bombing could not be accomplished without some risk to U.S. pilots, according to a combat aviator with access to intelligence.

"It's not like we can just stroll right in and bomb with impunity," the source said. Although much of Iraq's air defense network was destroyed in the first five days of the air war in January 1991, "they had a lot of stuff warehoused. We would destroy radars and a couple of days later they would be back up because they were taking them out of the warehouse," said the aviator.

In addition, the aviator said, allied warplanes deliberately spared some targets, such as surface-to-air missile sites near Iran, because they were not relevant to any specific military objective.

Iraq has apparently been able to reestablish communications links between air defense "nodes" that had been severed during the war. "They've had a year and they're good engineers," he said. "They have a very high percentage of computer-literate people."

Apart from the F-117A and F-4G, Air Force aircraft in Saudi Arabia and at Incirlik air base in Turkey include F-15E and F-16C attack jets and EF-111 radar-jamming planes. The British Royal Air Force, diplomats said, has a squadron of about 12 Tornado bombers at Incirlik as well.

Also in the region is the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit of more than 2,000 Marines, whose reinforced battalion of infantry is the only nearby U.S. ground combat capability.

Although all administration spokesmen were cautious yesterday, the Pentagon seemed especially eager to play down expectations of imminent combat. "Right now we think the appropriate way to resolve the problem of the destruction of ballistic missiles and their production facilities is to work for the U.N. special commission," said Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams. "There are a lot of administration people out there talking, saying various things, some of whom appear to have no idea whatsoever of what's going on."

Ekeus said the U.N. inspection team expected to arrive in Baghdad on Saturday will try to reach agreement with Iraqi authorities on a list of missile-related equipment that the U.N. wants destroyed and a plan for disposing of it.

However, Ekeus reiterated that while the team is scheduled to leave Iraq on March 29, he does not regard that as a deadline by which Iraq must comply or face military action. Ekeus said that if his inspectors are obstructed in efforts to get an elimination plan, he will report to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq is not complying with its obligations under the Persian Gulf War cease-fire agreement.

Staff writers John Lancaster and David Hoffman and special correspondent Trevor Rowe at the United Nations contributed to this report.

Washington Post 3/20/92
Powell Said to Oppose New Strike on Iraq
Bombing's Efficacy Doubled; Officials Expect Saddam to Obey Arms Mandate
By Barton Gellman and Ann Devroy
Washington Post Staff Writers
Gen. Colin L. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is opposing the use of military force to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction, as the Bush administration debates over how to deal with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, according to officials.
Iraq's resistance to United Nations orders to destroy its remaining ballistic missile equipment has again raised the prospect of a military confrontation with U.S.-led forces. But Powell has told his military service chiefs that a new bombing cam-

paign would be unlikely to destroy the bulk of Iraq's non-conventional weapons or compel Saddam to do so, according to authoritative sources. Other senior officers, who describe themselves as sympathetic to Powell's views, said a military strike would carry substantial peril for U.S. forces and risk a political backlash among moderate Arab states.
Ranking U.S. officials yesterday cautioned against expecting any imminent military move, saying they expect Iraq to back down from its current resistance to U.N. mandates. But the U.S. Central Command and operations directorate of the Joint Staff have prepared detailed contin-

gency plans, and there have been conspicuous moves recently of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf—including F-117A "stealth" attack jets, F-4G anti-radar planes and the USS America carrier battle group—that officials said were intended to send a message.
The long war of nerves with Baghdad, already complex and contentious, has been further complicated by the start of the presidential campaign, which U.S. officials said yesterday has forced Bush to weigh more carefully the potential domestic political implications of any action he takes.
"Anything he does will be seen as polit-

See IRAQ, A21, Col. 1