

## GULF CRISIS AND THE ROLE OF USA

**Dr. Shirazul Islam**

**Associate Professor**

### **Abstract**

The Iraqi aggression in Kuwait on August 2, 1990, paved the way to the US and UK began to turn the Gulf crisis into an international crisis. The Egypt-Jordanian plan failed to find out a way for political solution for the Iraqi aggression, the UK ordered its ships to join the US ship, in Dubai, UAE. That was the beginning of foreign deployment in the Gulf region. The UK Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, urged the US President, Mr. H. W. Bush to take tough measure against Iraq and not to allow going the chance of the Iraqi occupation. Ms Thatcher and G. Bush undertook the plan on August 3, to take every possible measure jointly against Iraq. The US negotiated Kuwait in the UN for the *immediate* and *unconditional* Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. The US-Kuwaiti understanding opened a new diplomatic front within and outside the UN. Washington blocked the Iraqi and Kuwaiti Governments' properties and prohibited transactions with Iraq on August 2. The US relation with Iraq were fully cut off with this development. The US President sent an urgent message to the Congress on the declaration of a National Emergency towards Iraq prohibiting exports and imports of goods and services between the US and Iraq. That US move widened the US-Iraqi gap further. The movement of Iraqi forces towards Saudi border was disclosed by the Washington Administration, though Iraq showed no interest to take Saudi Arabia. But US involved Saudi Arabia directly against Iraq. The Saudis branded President Saddam of Iraq as the follower of *Hitler*.

**KEYWORD:** Gulf crisis, Egypt-Jordanian plan, Margaret Thatcher, H. W. Bush, Kuwait, Saddam Hussein

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the beginning 1990 US began to take new diplomatic measures for Saudi and President Bush ordered for deployment of US military forces in Saudi Arabia and in the Persian Gulf region to *protect* the US *interests* in the region. The high-level delegation team under the US Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, reached Saudi Arabia on August 6, 1990, to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to convince him to allow stationing the US troops on their soil. Mr. Cheney assured that the US assistance for an immediate rescue to Saudi Arabia would come in case of any attack by Iraq on its demand. Washington expected an immediate reply from Riyadh on the issue. Saudi Arabia came under the US pressure though there was no immediate response. The US on publicly declared its firm determination on August 8, as a part of its policy to confront Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The US firmly decided to *resist* the Iraqi aggression as per teachings of history. The US opposed any form of *appeasement* with the aggressive dictator of Iraq. The US declared the Iraq-Kuwaiti

problem as the *world problem*. Morocco demanded the restoration of Monarchy in Kuwait. The USA sought Morocco's co-operation into the same problem. The Secretary of Defense, Mr. Dick Cheney, arrived in Morocco at 8.30 PM on August 7, 1990 in support of the US policy in the Gulf evolved out of the Iraqi unjust assault on Kuwait. The Cheney Mission gained the support from Morocco.

The Gulf crisis following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, paved the way for a *new world order* for the USA. For this purpose, Washington sent the Baker Mission to Damascus to improve the US-Syrian understandings.

## **Methodology**

The study is descriptive in nature and it was based on various secondary sources like Books, Magazines, Journals and internet.

## **DISCUSSION**

**The US-Turkish friendship:** This marked a new beginning with President of Turkey support to the US President for the effectiveness of the sanctions in the Gulf. Turkey's Foreign Minister, Ali Boozer, went out with a mission to urge Iran to extend support in strictly imposition of sanctions against Iraq. Turkey was interested in mediation for a better US-Iranian relationship, but the US paid no heed to the proposal of Ankara. The Ali Boozer Mission was ultimately a failure. Turkey on August 14 extended full co-operation to the USA in imposing the embargo on Iraq. Turkey urged the USA to keep in contact with Jordan. The US -Yemeni understanding took place on September 1, on sending of a special US envoy to minimize their differences on the Gulf issue based on their mutual principles.

**Role of the UNO towards Iraqi occupation:** The UNSC called upon all states to prevent Iraq from importing outside and exporting of all commodities and products originating in Iraq or Kuwait. Britain extended full support to the UN resolution on imposition of comprehensive sanctions with the support of Japan and the USSR over the world. Mr. Manfred Warner, Secretary General of the NATO asked the West to show cohesion and determination to refer its own security interests. The NATO support to the US-UK policy towards Iraq created a new sensation in Europe. The US Administration on August 9, (1990) in support of the UNSC Resolution of August 6, 1990, blocked the Iraqi Government's property and prohibited any kind of transactions with Iraq.

**Movements of Military forces:** The US President became more confident to take action against Iraq on August 6, 1990 as the Iraqi President took a vow to liberate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the ruling Saudi family, if the Americans forces reached the Kingdom. The US disclosed the matter of Saudi acceptance of the US plan to move the 82nd

Airborne Division together with 48 F-15 fighters but the permanent announcement was kept secret. France also prepared itself to go to a war against Iraq .

**Role of the USSR:** The Helsinki Conference held on 9 September has remained still now, as the great dividing line for US policies towards Iraq in the post–August 2 periods. The US policy in the post–August 2 (1990) began with the issue of Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The controlling over the whole situation in the Gulf to assume the International leadership and to isolate Iraq which was completed in the Helsinki Conference with the active co-operation of the USSR.<sup>130</sup>The Gulf issue took the US to the supreme position in the world.

**US economic diplomacy:** The US Administration in order to establish a strong-hold undertook financial and other diplomacies. The US forgave Egypt's \$ 7 billion debts in the pre-war moment. Syria was forgiven from all charges of anti-American activities .Turkey was benefitted with some trade concessions granted to her in response to her strong support to US policies.

### **Conclusion**

The British Government undertook the plan on November 7, 1990 to send the 7th Armored Brigade, the Desert Rats, to fight against Iraq. The US President on November 8, 1990, directed the Secretary of Defense to increase the number of US personnel in the Gulf. With this, the US policy shifted from the *defense* to *offense* which was a major shift in International politics. Mr. James Baker III, wrapped up a tour to meet top officials in 8 countries--Bahrain, Kuwait (Government-in- exile), Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China, Turkey and the USSR. On November 10, London stressed on the use of force against Iraq during the air and ground operations staying with the USA to achieve the ultimate objective.

The Japanese military presence in the Gulf region was supported by the USA. The presence of the Japanese force in the Gulf was a great diplomatic victory for Tokyo in the post-WW II period. The private discussion of President Mubarak with President Bush convinced the Egyptian leader to send their troops beyond Saudi Arabia, even to Iraq. The private meeting between Mr. Bush and President Assad changed the Syrian decision to use force from the Saudi defense to offence against Iraq. These two meetings had deep impacts on the Gulf problem in 1990-1991. This development of political instability led to the Gulf War in Middle East, USA was benefitted by their move from occupation of Iraq and throwing out Saddam Hussein.

### **References**

1. The Japan Times, January 10, 1991
2. The people's Daily, November 24, 1990

3. 9514 The White House Washington Memorandum Of Conversation Subject: Meeting with people's Republic of China Foreign Minister Qian Quechan Participants: The president (G. Bush),Q. Quechan
4. HC S [Debate on the Address] 1990 Nov 7 We Margaret Thatcher
5. <http://www.margaretthatcher.org/imaged/sublogo.gif>
6. Feudal Register/ Vol. 55. No. 178/ Thursday 13, 1990/ Notices Department Of State Public Notice -1268 Determination Iraq
7. Helsinki Summit: The key issue Los Angeles Times September 09, 1990.
8. The White House Washington October 23, 1990 (signed) G.BUSH
9. UNSC Resolution 672 S/RES/672 15 October 1990
10. United Nations Security Council Distr.- General S/21713 5 September, 1990