Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

bounds. He was expelled. In retaliation, Iraq expelled a US diplomat in Baghdad, an action we believe was unjustified.

In March, Iraq executed Farzad Bazoft, a journalist working for a British newspaper. We deplored the failure of the Iraqi government to respond to international appeals for clemency.

In late March, US and British Customs collaborated to defeat an apparent Iraqi attempt to smuggle military electrical components—called capacitors—well suited to nuclear weapons uses. We do not believe Iraq is close to possessing a nuclear weapon, and we recognize that Iraq's nuclear program is under safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The attempt to smuggle these items raises serious questions about Iraq's willingness to live up to its commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NNPT).

Also in March, we learned that Iraq had placed missile launchers at its H-2 airbase near the Jordanian border. During the gulf war, Iraq received a large store of Scud missiles provided by the Soviet Union. Iraq modified these missiles in order to reach Tehran. From H-2, they are capable of reaching Israel and other countries in the region.

On April 1, apparently in reaction to growing international criticism of Iraq, President Hussein made a speech to an audience of Iraqi military officers in which, among other things, he threatened to "burn up half of Israel" in retaliation for an Israeli attack on Iraq and stated that Iraq possesses "dual" chemical weapons.

Our policy toward Iraq has been to attempt to develop gradually a mutually beneficial relationship with Iraq in order to strengthen positive trends in Iraq's foreign and domestic policies. Recent developments, taken together, are serious. They raise questions in our minds about the intentions of Iraq's leaders toward such international commitments as the NNPT and the Geneva protocol banning the use of chemical weapons. Behind this lies the broader issue of what Iraq's political and military aims are in the region.

In considering our response to these Iraqi actions, it may be useful to review the status of the few programs of cooperation we have with Iraq and the reasons for their existence.

Economics and Trade

We provide no economic support or military assistance of any kind to Iraq. Similar to other industrial countries, we have programs which are designed to promote US exports to Iraq on commercial terms in a highly competitive international market.

The first, and the largest, is a program of credit guarantees run by the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). The credit guarantees that are made available to Iraq under the CCC GSM (General Sales Manager) 102 and 103 programs insure against nonpayment by Iraqi purchasers on loans made by commercial banks to Iraq for the purchase of US agricultural commodities, thereby facilitating US farm exports. In past years, the program has included a small amount of GSM 103, or medium-term guarantees; the entire fiscal year 1990 program is in GSM 102, or short-term guarantees. Iraq has never defaulted on CCC-insured loans. Under this program, in calendar year 1989, we exported about $1 billion in agricultural commodities to Iraq.

Items exported included rice and other grains, cattle, eggs and chickens, lumber, and a variety of other agricultural products. In the current fiscal year, we have provided Iraq some $500 million in credit guarantees under this program. Iraq has used almost all of these credit guarantees. With the cooperation of the government of Iraq, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reviewing the past operations of the program. USDA has not made a proposal for a further amount of credits in this fiscal year, pending the completion of that review.

In addition, the Export-Import Bank (Eximbank) has a short-term revolving credit insurance program of $200 million. Like CCC, Eximbank insures US exporters and banks against nonpayment. Eximbank has never had to pay out a claim against insurance issued on Iraqi risk. The program finances the purchase of US commercial goods. A large number of US companies have used it. In January, the President waived for Iraq a provision of the Foreign Operations Appropriation Act which for the first time defined this program as a form of aid. The program has subsequently resumed operations.

Nonproliferation Issues

In other areas, trade with Iraq is limited. As a matter of policy, we do not sell items on the munitions list to Iraq. We do not cooperate with Iraq's nuclear program. The Sub-Group on Nuclear Export Coordination (SNEC), an interagency committee, reviews license requests on the Department of Commerce's nuclear referral list and rejects all those which it determines will contribute to Iraqi capabilities to develop nuclear weapons. Fifty chemicals are now on the list of chemical weapons precursors whose export is controlled to Iraq and certain other countries. We continue to work within the "Australia group" to harmonize the export controls of many nations to deny Iraq materials for its chemical weapons program, as well as those of Syria, Iran, and Libya.

Iraq is a signatory to the 1972 convention banning biological weapons, although it has not deposited an instrument of ratification. We have denied Iraqi license requests for technology, such as cell dryers, which could conceivably be used in furtherance of a biological-weapons program.

The United States is active in trying to prevent the spread of missiles, especially in volatile areas such as the Middle East. Through our missile technology control regime, we work

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

with our allies to deny missile-related technology to a number of countries, including Iraq.

This extensive network of controls is not perfect. Efforts are underway to improve them and to alert our allies to the dangers of contributing to Iraq's weapons programs. But as the recent arrests of Iraqi smugglers in London shows, controls can work effectively. The resulting public exposure through prosecution will have the effect of making those who seek to violate our laws think twice.

The Question of Sanctions

This brings me to the question of sanctions. I am well aware that there is strong sentiment on this committee and elsewhere in the Congress for trade sanctions against Iraq. If those of us in the Administration thought legislating trade sanctions would have the effect of promoting the goals we share with this committee and the Congress, we would not hesitate to support their imposition. We simply do not believe that to be the case. While we do not rule out appropriate responses to recent actions by the government of Iraq, we are not prepared to see economic and trade sanctions legislatively imposed at this point. Instead, we believe Iraq has clearly received the important message of unanimous US Government concern over its recent actions, and we are hopeful that the government of Iraq will move quickly to bring US-Iraq relations back to a more positive level.

Experience has shown that economic sanctions are most effective when they are imposed on a multilateral basis. There is no prospect of this in the case of Iraq. All of the major industrialized countries provide credit programs to assist their exporters in penetrating the Iraqi market. A significant effect of suspending our export-promotion programs would be to deny US exporters the ability to compete with exporters who continue to benefit from their governments' export-promotion programs. Our competitors in Canada, Australia, Europe, and Japan would step in quickly to fill the breach. Regarding our agricultural programs, US policy in both this Administration and the previous one has been not to single out farm exports as a tool of foreign policy.

Another result of sanctions would be to worsen the existing imbalance in our trade with Iraq. In the first 2 months of 1990, we imported Iraqi oil at a level of some 675,000 barrels per day. If this rate of purchase holds through the year, we will buy at least $3.7 billion worth of oil from Iraq. Our exports to Iraq last year amounted to some $1.2 billion, or roughly the levels of the CCC and Eximbank guarantee programs combined.

For these reasons, the Administration continues to oppose imposition of legislated sanctions. They would hurt US exporters and worsen our trade deficit. I do not see how sanctions would improve our ability to exercise a restraining influence on Iraqi actions.

The government of Iraq is well aware that its recent actions have caused a deterioration in US-Iraq relations. The visit of Senator [Robert] Dole and his colleagues to Baghdad helped bring home to Iraqi leaders the damage which has been done. We believe it is important to give the government of Iraq an opportunity to demonstrate that it does indeed wish to reverse this deterioration in relations, and we are therefore opposed to legislation to impose economic sanctions. The Administration continues to review the entire range of options available to it, should Iraq continue to fail to conduct itself responsibly.

Iraq, like other states, has legitimate security concerns. The war with Iran lasted for 8 years and had a devastating effect on Iraq. Few Iraqi families escaped unscathed. Iraqi leaders recall Israel's 1981 attack on the nuclear research reactor at Tuwaitha, which is subject to IAEA safeguards.

Nevertheless, it is a fact that Iraq's own reckless words and actions have raised new questions about Iraq's activities in the region and toward its international commitment to the 1925 Geneva protocol banning chemical weapons use and to the NNPT. To dispel these questions and avoid further damage to Iraq's international standing, it is up to Iraq to observe scrupulously its NNPT and other international commitments. It is similarly up to Iraq to demonstrate in practice its professed commitment to respect internationally recognized human rights standards.

Conclusion

Iraq is an important and difficult country, which poses a challenge to American foreign policy. Our policy must consider a complex number of elements, involving regional security considerations, human rights concerns, and the proliferation threat.

Iraq will have a significant influence on the political and economic landscape of the Persian Gulf and the Middle East in the years to come, for better or for worse. If Iraq should seek to play a spoiler's role in the Middle East peace process, threaten the security of Israel and other countries in the area, and continue to violate human rights on a widespread scale, the United States and Iraq would become increasingly at odds. We would take appropriate action on behalf of American interests. If, however, Iraq plays an increasingly responsible role and cooperates with international efforts to control proliferation of nonconventional weapons and improve its abysmal human rights record, the US-Iraq relationship will improve, with benefits for both countries. ■

Published by the United States Department of State • Bureau of Public Affairs • Office of Public Communication • Washington, DC May 1990 • Editor: Peter Knecht • This material is in the public domain and may be reprinted without permission; citation of this source is appreciated.

Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
wila.gov
S 1.71/4:1273
Kelly, John H.
US relations with Iraq / John H. Kelly.
3 1951 002 977 920 N

PA/PC, Mailing List
United States Department of State
Washington, DC 20520-6810

BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
US Department of State
Permit No. G–130

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE

Address Correction Requested

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

universal
www.myuniversalcop.com
phone: 1-800-753-4676
UNI12113
MADE IN USA

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WILS
GOVU
S 1.71/4:1273

John H. Kelly

Current
Policy
No.1273

US Relations With Iraq

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, DC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

JUL 2 1990

U. S. DEPOSITORY PROPERTY
U.S. - G.P.O. - D - 295

Following is a statement by John H. Kelly, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, before the Subcommittee on Europe and the Near East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, April 26, 1990.

I welcome this opportunity to review with this committee our relations with Iraq. Early in the Administration, a review of our policy in the Persian Gulf was conducted, part of the Administration's overall review of key areas of our foreign policy. An effort was made to go back to basics and rethink the premises on which we operate. The result was a conclusion that US interests in the Persian Gulf— and in Iraq—were likely to be increasingly important in the decade to come.

One reason, of course, is energy. Gulf producers account for about 70% of world excess oil production capacity, and, over the next 10 years, they will be called on to cover increasing percentages in world consumption. Worldwide, Iraq's oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

Another reason is the danger of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and the missile systems to deliver them. Again, the importance of Iraq is clear.

We also knew, of course, that in the final analysis only a policy based on American values and principles will succeed. This meant that human rights would be a central consideration for us.

These fundamental concerns and interests will continue to guide our diplomacy with Iraq.

The Evolving Relationship

The official US-Iraq relationship is a relatively recent development. We re-established full diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1984, after Iraq expelled the Abu Nidal terrorist gang and was removed from the list of states that support international terrorism. The establishment of diplomatic relations helped us work with Iraq in efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. In subsequent years we developed a dialogue with Iraqi leaders on issues from the Middle East peace process to Lebanon.

By October of 1989, we could point to some modest developments on issues of concern to us:

- Iraq had ended its arms supply to Gen. Michel Awn in Lebanon;
- Iraq was discussing a new constitution which potentially would provide greater recognition of human rights;
- Iraq had participated in two disarmament conferences on chemical weapons and had joined (as an observer) the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva, where we are working toward a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons.
- On the Middle East peace process, Iraq was deferring to the parties more directly involved, including Egypt and the PLO.

Recent Iraqi Actions—New Questions

Since then, Iraqi actions have raised new questions about Iraqi intentions in the region.

In February, I visited the gulf, and on February 12, I met with President Saddam Hussein. A week later President Hussein gave a harsh speech to the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council, a grouping of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic, in which he criticized our naval presence in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the region.

We have been told that Iraqi resentment of our criticism of Iraq's abysmal human rights practices in our 1990 report may have been a factor. We stand by that report. It is as accurate a characterization of the human rights situation in Iraq as we can make from the facts available to us. We wish the facts were more favorable. We will continue to speak out to urge the government of Iraq to improve its record in this area.

Also in February, a US citizen of Iraqi origin was arrested in California on charges of conspiracy to commit murder. Although he was released for lack of evidence, subsequent investigation showed strong ties to a diplomat at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations. The US citizen was later indicted by a grand jury in California. We determined that the behavior of the diplomat went beyond acceptable

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA