

SEP 04 REC'D

August 31, 1990

C Span
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Gentlemen:

While I feel that your coverage of events in the Gulf is generally excellent, I strongly object to affording former Senator James Abourezk of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee a national television forum to expound Saddam Hussein's and the PLO view of the unrelated Israeli-Arab problem without any rejoinder. It is not only divisive but significantly advances Iraqi propaganda. Not only did Mr. Abourezk appear on September 29 but your program department repeated his misleading and highly provocative remarks on September 30.

To equate the Israeli history (and particularly 1948) with the naked aggression of Iraq is absurd. Aside from a long history of arab violence directed against the jewish population of Palestine, it ignores the Balfour Declaration, the U.N. action of 1948 and the arabic response, the repeated attacks by the arab states against Israel and the treatment of the Palestine arabs by the arab states themselves between 1948 and 1967.

Most Americans have little knowledge of American history as recent as the Korean War much less middle eastern history. I suggest you afford a representative of the Jewish Anti-Defamation League or some other Jewish group that deals with Jewish history the opportunity to acquaint your viewers with a response to Mr. Abouezk's remarks.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter I wrote to my congressman that puts Saddam Hussein's antics in proper perspective.

Very truly yours,

300 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20001
Hon. Charles Douglas
197 Loudon Rd., Suite 200
Concord, N.H. 03301

August 19, 1990

Dear Congressman Douglas:

After reading two items on the editorial page of the Valley News of August 17th I considered whether I should submit an article to that newspaper or communicate with you. I decided on the latter course.

Let me introduce, or more properly reintroduce, myself to you, for we met during both your primary and regular campaigns which I strongly supported. We also met at one or more of your appearances in Lebanon and we have had some previous correspondence principally in connection with the repeal of the catastrophic health care legislation.

I was a practicing attorney as well as an adjunct law school professor who initially served as an assistant attorney general in New York State. It is some years since I retired from the profession. More relevant is my army career of many years and particularly my last active assignment as an officer at a major headquarters during the Korean War.

During World War II I was rather amused by one of my comrade's comments about his father's embarrassment that his son was involved in another war after he had fought in World War I - the war to end wars. By the time of Korea I began to have similar reactions for the younger men. This feeling only intensified through Vietnam and its aftermath.

At my headquarters during the Korean affair the professional officers corps strongly supported General MacArthur's position of bombing the Chinese communications centers and with nuclear rather than conventional explosives. The argument was advanced that no nation (until that time) with a superior weapon refrained from using it in warfare from time immemorial as illustrated by the use of iron against bronze weapons, greek fire, the long bow, cannons, up to the German V1, V2 and jet planes of World War II. Obviously Mac Arthur's attempt to disregard the superior authority of the civilian over the military placed his military strategy at odds with a fundamental principle of this nation. It is also dubious if bombing the dikes or nuclear destruction would have been effective in Vietnam where a civil war was part of the equation.

All of this is introductory to my comments on the newspaper articles concerning the error of our president directly involving the nation in middle eastern affairs and the comic portrayal of Saddam Hussein's self-identification with Saladin and Nebuchadnezzar (enclosed).

August 19, 1990

At an earlier period I had occasion to make a number of trips to the middle east. At the end of the 1960's I met an Israeli nuclear scientist who was an engineer. He told me that Israel either possessed or had the technology for a very dirty atomic bomb. My recollection is that he said they did not have the proper ingredients and substituted cobalt in their device that might set off an uncontrollable chain reaction. Some ten years later I met an Iraqi former high ranking military officer in Egypt. Perhaps it was pique but he opined that Saddam Hussein fancied himself the reincarnation of Sargon and that Hussein had a plan to seize all the major oil producing facilities of the middle east and legitimize his actions from the arab point of view by the destruction of the Israeli state. While I minimized both statements at their times the implications of such information if true would be cataclysmic to the entire world.

It is apparent that Hussein is a madman and without principles. As an aggressor he attacked Iran when it was in a state of disarray to seize territory. He reintroduced poison gas which was outlawed after World War I by international covenants that even Hitler observed. He seized Kuwait, the country that both financed his Iranian venture and induced the United States, in effect, to make possible his defeat of Iran; he practiced genocide against the Kurds and Shiites of his own population. Now he holds American and British civilians as hostages in utter disregard of international law. This dictator is perhaps the most perfidious character to come upon history's stage. Unfortunately I believe that ultimately dealing with Hussein will confront Congress.

Whatever the validity of support for Kuwait or Saudi Arabia may be, Hussein should be advised that we will not hesitate to use nuclear devices against him. This country will not be able to destroy Iraqi cities because it is obvious that Hussein will use hostages as a shield; moreover, Iraqi civilians should not be killed for the sins of a madman. However, every productive facility as well as the military would be suitable targets. Truman who alone authorized the use of nuclear weapons is admired by our population as one of the greatest presidents of recent times. I do not feel further American lives should be wasted in this century for some vague ill defined political principle to satisfy the conflicting sentiments of the world.

Sincerely yours,