

Bush asks collegians to get behind the war effort

(CPS)—Apparently hoping to defuse a gathering anti-war movement on the nation's campuses, President Bush sent an unusual letter to some of the country's 14 million collegians Jan. 12, asking them to support his stand against Saddam Hussein.

Bush also promised to try to resolve the crisis peacefully.

"The president felt it was important to communicate directly with them," Bush press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said of the letter to students, adding that many students have friends in the Gulf region. Untold numbers of the soldiers now in the region, of course, were themselves students just a few weeks ago. In his two-page letter sent to about 460 college publications, Bush explained his policy rationale. "If armed men invaded a home in this country, killed those in their way, stole what they wanted and then announced the house was now theirs—no one would hesitate about what must be done," he wrote. "And that is why we cannot hesitate about what must be done halfway around the world in Kuwait." Bush said. "The facts are clear. The choice unambiguous. Right vs. wrong."

"We thought it was pretty much a joke," said Hideki Tomeoka, associate editor of the University of Washington's paper,

the Daily. The editors received the letter by fax machine Jan. 8 and ran it the next day as a guest opinion with the headline "Words Of Wonder From Mr. Bush". An accompanying editorial cartoon of

yet finalized plans on how to run the letter. "I was surprised at first," said Kelley Tuthill, news editor for Notre Dame's The Observer. "But he does have to be accountable to us." "It was condescending

homefront Bush has to worry about, it's college campuses," added Eric Pfanner, editor of the Daily Nebraskan, the paper at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In the letter, Bush also re-

heart: I don't want there to be war ever again. I am determined to do absolutely everything possible in the search for a peaceful resolution to this crisis."

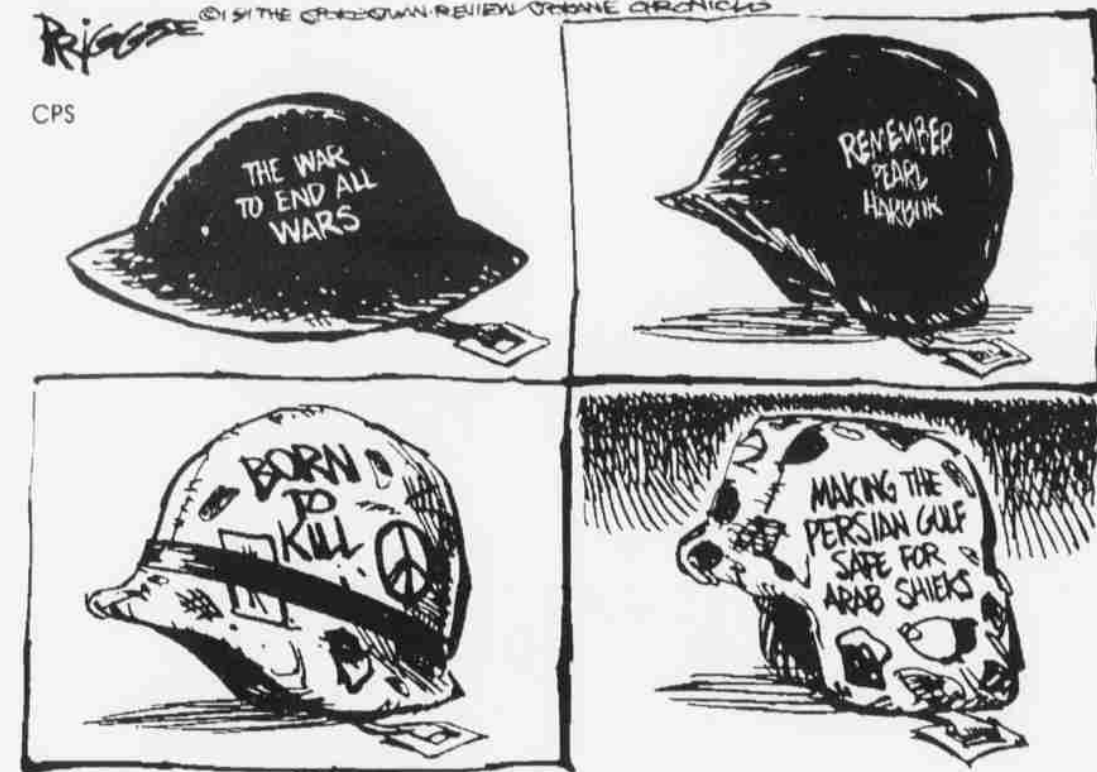
Bush joined the Navy in 1941. He was only 18, and he had just graduated from high school. Within a year, he became one of the service's youngest combat pilots.

The president also saluted the 370,000-some American troops now in the Gulf as "young men and women who are putting their lives on hold in order to stand for peace."

Bush quoted a Christmas card he recently received from Army Sgt. Terry Hatfield, a "young soldier" from Fort Stewart, Ga.

"Mr. President, I just wanted you to know my soldiers and I are ready to do whatever mission you decide. Freedom as we know and enjoy it has been taken away from another country and must be restored."

"Although we are separated from family and friends, loved ones, we will do what must be done.... We stand ready and waiting. God bless you and the U.S.A."



the President called it "bullshit."

Other editors just returning from winter break, like those at the University of Notre Dame and Oberlin College, said they hadn't

at some points," Tuthill continued, referring to Bush's explanation on "right vs. wrong. Students know what's going on."

"If there's one place on the

called his days as a teenage combat pilot in World War II. "I have been in war," Bush said. "I know the terror of combat."

"And I tell you this with all my

Bush said, "Terry understands the moral obligation that has compelled our extraordinary multinational coalition to make this stand in the Gulf."



THE CAMPAIGN'S NEXT PHASE

The fighting so far is the first of a three-phase war scenario, experts say

PHASE 2: GROUND FORCES ENGAGE

Goal: To encircle and isolate Iraqi troops in Kuwait by cutting off supply and communication lines and attacking forces from the ground and air.

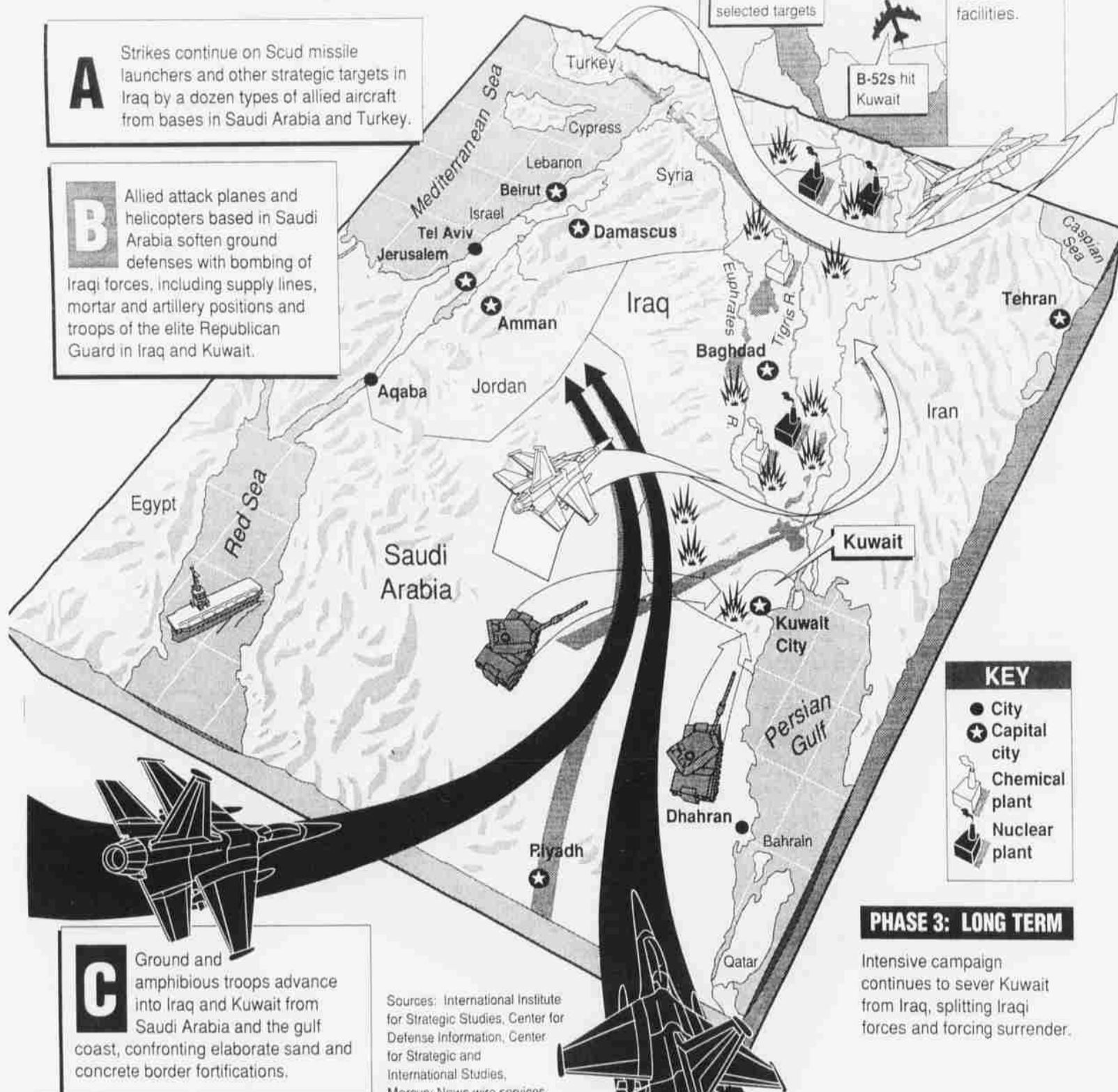
A Strikes continue on Scud missile launchers and other strategic targets in Iraq by a dozen types of allied aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

B Allied attack planes and helicopters based in Saudi Arabia soften ground defenses with bombing of Iraqi forces, including supply lines, mortar and artillery positions and troops of the elite Republican Guard in Iraq and Kuwait.

C Ground and amphibious troops advance into Iraq and Kuwait from Saudi Arabia and the gulf coast, confronting elaborate sand and concrete border fortifications.

PHASE 1: THE FIRST DAYS OF WAR

Cruise missiles struck selected targets in Baghdad, Iraq, and Iran. Fighter planes bombed Baghdad, Saudi Arabia, and Riyadh. Tomahawk missiles struck selected targets in Baghdad, Iraq, and Iran. B-52s hit Kuwait. Goal: Destroy command and communications centers, air defense systems, utilities and chemical and nuclear facilities.



KEY

- City
- ★ Capital city
- ☒ Chemical plant
- ☒ Nuclear plant

PHASE 3: LONG TERM

Intensive campaign continues to sever Kuwait from Iraq, splitting Iraqi forces and forcing surrender.

Sources: International Institute for Strategic Studies, Center for Defense Information, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Mercury News wire services.