

PRESS DIGESTPRIME MINISTERGULF

President Bush tells Congress: Saddam Hussein will fail. That is how it is going to be.

Up to 7,500 soldiers and 100 tanks may be sent to Gulf, according to various reports. Decision Friday.

Express says the decision was inevitable and right.

Japan may send up to 2,000 unarmed troops and civilians.

Italy says as a World War II loser it can't send any because the size of its army is limited.

US build-up in Gulf will continue until President Bush believes there are enough forces to deal with any contingency Telegraph.

FT says Iraq is jamming US and Saudi electronic eavesdroppers with a French device.

Row over Red Cross spending £300,000 of British aid for refugees on jeeps and air fares.

Cat Stevens, now a Muslim, on a UK Muslim delegation to Middle East says Saddam Hussein's idea of a human shield using refugees is "not a bad idea".

Mail says Satanic Verses may be listed for a Booker prize.

Another 100 British women and children expected to be on next evacuation flight today.

UK diplomat goes from Baghdad to Kuwait to assist their departure.

Switzerland, Austria, Greece and Bangladesh abandon missions in Kuwait because of water and food shortages and violence in city.

COMMENT

Today, on Iran's willingness to drop Salman Rushdie death threat, says this is excellent news providing two other conditions are met: Iran must commit itself to sanctions; and secure release of hostages in Lebanon.



PRESS DIGEST

Mail says the overall response to the US appeal for troops has been evasive. Only the British Govt, which has already done more than the rest, has been prompt to signal its willingness. We must persuade others.

Independent says there is little value in preaching against Saddam Hussein if we are not also prepared to act.

Main News

Gorbachev backs relatively swift move to market economy, in 18 months. Express - Gorby backs Boris. Speculation about Ryzhkov's future.

ECONOMY

Rotherham Council says more than 1,000 jobs could be lost because of "Govt cutbacks".

Marley to shed 45 jobs and JCB digger firm 170 because of slow building market.

ICI signs contract to build £700million gas-fired power station on Teesside.

BP gets go-ahead to develop £1.5billion Bruce gasfield in North Sea.

FT says selling BR as a whole seems the best policy and the gains from privatisation justify setting a date for it before BR is earning a commercial profit.

COUNTRYSIDE

The Church of England report on countryside life gets little attention in pops. More in qualities. Guardian says you will ignore it at your peril.

Times' verdict: Shorn of its pretensions to set the rural world to rights, this report may yet make a useful offering.

NB. Joe Rogaly, in FT, describes report of Commission on Citizenship, under patronage of Speaker as "a load of old tripe".

LAMB WAR

British lorry drivers say French farmers are using CB radios to track meat lorries.



PRESS DIGEST

French police intervened at last in attempt to set sheep free near Lyons.

Star says it is getting out of control. Govt action is required on both sides to sort out the mess.

Marks & Spencer end a French cheese promotion in Llandudno after shoppers' protests.

Express says boycott of French food, advocated by Sir Richard body MP, looms.

NHS

Patients will be able to pay for extras in hospitals brings a predictable reaction.

Star - will divert NHS from real priorities. Mirror - A rigid class system is to be imposed which won't shorten a single waiting list or relieve the pressure on overworked doctors.

New AIDS cases in August - 140 - a new monthly record.

Express calls on Ministers to give justice to haemophiliacs who have been infected with AIDS, and not to allow officials to dig a legal trench between them and Govt.

LAW & ORDER

Russian miners call for criminal charges to be laid against Scargill.

5, including some ringleaders, accused of murder in Strangeways riot.

Relatives of Lockerbie dead say AAIB report does nothing to make travellers more secure from terrorists.

Today says of proposal to strengthen airliners, that there is no substitute for security system. Express entirely agrees.

LOCAL GOVT

Report shows time off by council workers in London - malingering, Sun calls it - costs community charge payers £25 a year. Workers in 10 boroughs take 2.5 times national average sick leave and absenteeism in Labour authorities is astronomically high.



PRESS DIGEST

More than half people on Liverpool's community charge register have not paid yet.

Richard Hickmet selected as Tory candidate to succeed Ian Gow in Eastbourne.

FOREIGN

Mandela calls on South African Govt to send in troops to end black slaughter of black in townships.