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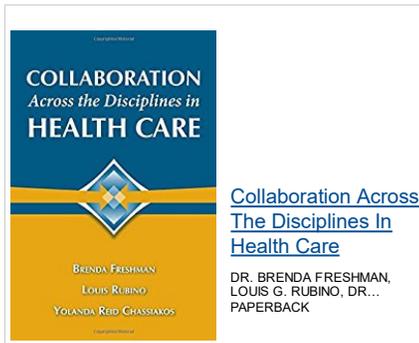
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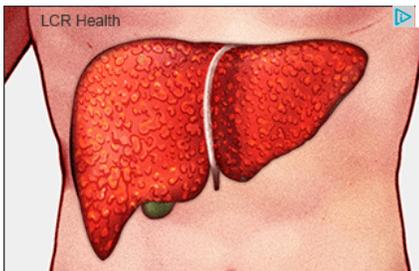
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## U.N. Gives Iraq Until Jan. 15 to Leave Kuwait or Face War : Gulf crisis: Historic measure passes 12 to 2, with China abstaining. It is only the second time the Security Council has voted to use military force.

**November 30, 1990** | JOHN J. GOLDMAN and NORMAN KEMPSTER | TIMES STAFF WRITERS

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UNITED NATIONS — In a historic vote, the U.N. Security Council on Thursday authorized war to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

It was only the second time since the United Nations was founded in 1945 that members of the world body voted to use military force.

But unlike measures adopted at the start of the Korean War recommending the immediate commitment of troops, Thursday's resolution gives Iraqi President Saddam Hussein at least until Jan. 15 to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. The council passed the measure by a vote of 12 to 2, with China abstaining.

The six-week cooling-off period is certain to feature intensive diplomacy, which will reach a crescendo as the deadline nears. After Jan. 15, war will not automatically follow. Although the resolution allows military force as an option, it does not require it.

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The Security Council chamber was packed to overflowing, the hallways outside jammed with reporters, when the 15 council members--represented by two ambassadors and 13 even more senior foreign ministers--cast their ballots.

Precisely at 5:27 p.m. EST, Secretary of State James A. Baker III, in his capacity as the council's president, a post he holds this month, called for the vote.

"Will those in favor of the draft resolution please raise their hands," Baker said in a firm voice.

Twelve nations signaled approval.

"Those opposed or against," Baker asked. As expected, Cuba and Yemen voted in the negative.

"Abstentions?"

China abstained.

China, as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council--the others are the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union--has the power to veto a measure before the council.

Just before the vote, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen had said he could not vote in favor of the resolution because it provided for military force.

The resolution was passed by the smallest margin of any of the 10 anti-Iraq measures adopted since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Several of the previous measures were passed unanimously; others were approved 13-2.

The latest resolution found Iraq "in flagrant contempt of the council" for ignoring previous measures, which included strict demands for an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, a trade and air embargo and the release of all hostages.

It authorized member states to "use all necessary means" to implement the withdrawal of Iraq's troops and "to restore international peace and security in the area."

"We have a chance to make this Security Council and the United Nations true institutions for peace and justice around the globe," Baker said as he convened the meeting. "We must not let the U.N. go the way of the League of Nations.

"Today's vote marks a watershed in the history of the United Nations," he said after the balloting--speaking as secretary of state, not as the council's president.

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"A dangerous man has committed a blatant act of aggression in a vital region at a critical moment in history.

". . . If he (Hussein) should come to dominate the resources of the gulf, his ambitions will threaten all of us here and the economic well-being of all nations," Baker said.

"If Iraq should emerge from this conflict with territory or treasure or political advantage, then the lesson will be clear: aggression pays."

The secretary of state, who later was to characterize the moment as "the hinge of history," said: ". . . Members of the council, we are at a crossroads. Today, we show Saddam that the sign marked 'Peace' is the direction he should take."

"We have been faced with the first extremely grave test of the post-Cold War era, and we are coping with it," said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze said the delay until Jan. 15 is "one last sincere chance to give common sense a chance to work or, if you will, for the instinct of self-preservation to come into play."

Later, in the hallway outside the council, standing before a tapestry of Picasso's "Guernica" mural depicting the horrors of war, the Soviet foreign minister underscored his warning.

"As for face-saving, there is no longer this question," Shevardnadze said. "He (Saddam Hussein) now has to save his people, his country. He has to save the world. He has to save peace in the region and global peace."

The foreign minister said that memories of the Soviet Union's 1980-89 involvement in Afghanistan and in Czechoslovakia in 1968 for the time being mitigated against the Soviet Union sending forces to join the troops in the desert.

But he sternly warned that if Iraq attacks Soviet citizens, his nation could act swiftly to employ military force.

Speaking before the vote, Iraq's U.N. ambassador, Abdul Amir Anbari, delivered a half-hour diatribe against the United States, accusing the Bush Administration of organizing a "malicious, brutal and aggressive policy" against his nation.

"Peace is our goal," the Iraqi delegate said. "We work for it. We desire it. If war is imposed upon us by the United States, this will be our destiny."

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