

# Congressman seeks full U.S. force withdrawal

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Although most members of Congress are enthusiastically backing President Bush's colonialist adventure in the Persian Gulf, support for the policy is by no means unanimous. Rep. Henry Gonzalez, a maverick Texas Democrat who chairs the House Banking Committee, has introduced a resolution calling for total withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Mideast by Oct. 1.

In a message to an anti-war forum held by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark Sept. 13, Gonzalez hit at the imperialist delusions behind the U.S. intervention. Comparing Bush to Ozymandias, the ancient king whose crumbling statue in the desert inspired Shelley's poem on the fleeting nature of imperial conquest, he asked: "Is George Bush a modern Ozymandias, and will he wreck himself and us upon the sands of Saudi Arabia?"

Gonzalez also assailed Congress for abdicating "its responsibility both under the U.S. Constitution and on a basis of loyalty to the people who elected them to office. If Congress will not protect the authority of its legislative enactments, who will?" he asked. "Do we or do we not have a Constitution? Will Congress maintain the integrity, or will it impeach the integrity, of its deliberations and legislative enactments such as the War Powers Resolution? Do we have a President? a Caesar? a monarch? a potentate?"

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## Documentation

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### Text of Gonzalez bill for U.S. troop pullout

*The following is the text of a resolution calling for the withdrawal of all U.S. military forces from the Persian Gulf, which Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.) introduced in Congress Sept. 5. The resolution, H.J. Res. 645, "Calling for the Removal of United States Armed Forces from the Middle East," has been referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.*

Whereas the United States Constitution grants Congress the

exclusive power to declare war;

Whereas United States Armed Forces were introduced in August 1990 by the President into a situation in a foreign land and waters where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated, without consultation with Congress or a declaration of war by Congress;

Whereas this deployment is a commitment of United States Armed Forces into a foreign nation for an unknown period of time;

Whereas weapons have been fired in connection with "Operation Desert Shield" in the Persian Gulf;

Whereas at least 15 Americans have lost their lives in connection with "Operation Desert Shield";

Whereas there has been no solidly defined and constant mission for United States troops in connection with "Operation Desert Shield" in that—

1) the original deployment was purportedly to ensure the safety of Saudi Arabia and to prevent an Iraqi invasion of that country;

2) the basis for the original deployment has been altered to one of protection of American interests in the Gulf States' oil supply and to Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait;

3) the effect of the deployment and the sanctions on the nation's economy as well as on the international community was neither analyzed nor planned; and

4) the wisdom of protecting foreign oil supplies as opposed to developing a national energy policy that would end dependence on foreign oil and the whims of foreign government officials has not been analyzed;

Whereas the military forces introduced by the President without consideration of the collective judgment of the Congress has escalated tension and the potential for world war;

Whereas the initial unilateral action by the President was taken without regard for the effects that diplomacy might have had to avert this crisis; and

Whereas this deployment to the Middle East is subject to the limitations of the War Powers Resolution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That—

1) the deployment of United States Armed Forces into certain hostilities in the Middle East is subject to the War Powers Resolution;

2) there has been no declaration of war, specific statutory authorization, or national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions or its Armed Forces justifying the President's action in ordering the deployment of United States troops; and

3) therefore this deployment shall terminate at the earliest practicable date, but in no event later than October 1, 1990, and all United States Armed Forces deployed to the Middle East in connection with "Operation Desert Shield" shall be withdrawn.