

Thus, Iraq was given six weeks' notice to comply with the call to withdraw, which had been issued by the United Nations four months earlier.

President Saddam Hussein paid no heed to the diplomatic efforts of other nations - including many Arab states - to achieve Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait before the deadline set by the Security Council.

His envoy refused to accept a letter from President Bush of the United States.

The leader of Iraq was not moved by the direct, personal approach of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who flew to Baghdad to meet him, or by the Secretary-General's final appeal just a few hours before the deadline.

The deadline has passed, and, consequently, a multinational force has moved to enforce the will of the United Nations.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, such action is clearly envisaged under Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter.

The Security Council has the power and the responsibility to "decide what measures should be taken to maintain or restore international peace and security".

It may decide on peaceful measures - as it did with the imposition of sanctions on Iraq.