## SOUTH TEXAS COALITION FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

## Because the United States' military build-up in the Middle East has brought us to the brink of a Third World War, we call for:

- \* Diplomatic and peaceful settlement of all Middle Eastern conflicts, with the help of the United Nations, the Arab nations, and other international bodies.
- \* Redirection of military spending to meet pressing needs.
- \* Rejection of priorities that value oil profits more than the lives of our soldiers.
- \* Development of a national energy policy based on non-nuclear energy sources and an end to the oil-based economy.

To help the Coalition continue, members and donations are needed. To join, sign up below and mail to: South Texas Coalition for Peace in the Middle East, 1702 Palm Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78407, (512) 884-8084.

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The unprecedented scale and speed of the U.S. military build-up, combined with the Bush Administration's refusal to explore a diplomatic solution, have set the stage for war. Every day the possibility of a horrific war, with tremendous loss of life, grows greater.

The cost of Operation Desert Shield is already astronomical and the massive problems within our country will only increase as our tax dollars are used for war or a prolonged stay in the Persian Gulf.

This militarization exposes racial and economic injustices in our society, such as the disproportionate number of people of color sent as troops into the Gulf and the diversion of funds from our major social needs -- education, health care, job programs and the environment.

We condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. However, we know that Kuwait is not the reason for the military build-up. U.S. leaders are prepared to wage war to control the flow of oil from the Gulf. On October 17, Republican Senate leader Robert Dole told the Senate: "We are in the Middle East for three letters -- O I L."

While the arms industry and oil companies continue to make colossal profits, our cities are crumbling, our people are suffering, and our environment is being destroyed. We need to conserve our resources and increase research into environmentally sound and renewable sources of energy.

The U.S. blockade is an act of war which only the U.S. Congress can order. It violates the Constitution. President Bush did not provide Congress within 48 hours with the written report which the War Powers Act requires.

Basing the reason for the U.S. action on the U.N. resolution against Iraq is hypocritical when the U.S. ignored similar U.N. resolutions condemning our invasions of Grenada and Panama.

We are committed to working together for peace and justice in the Middle East and in the United States.