

Kuwait's population has fled in terror. If we had waited, what sort of liberation would we be bringing to Kuwaiti society? Would there have been a Kuwaiti society to liberate?

Risk Number 2

Saddam Hussein would have continued to prepare for war and to plan for terror. While the world thought it was pausing for peace, Saddam Hussein was preparing for war. He was preparing the despicable tactic of launching missiles at innocent civilians in Israel, a country not at war with Iraq, as well as at civilians in countries which are part of the Coalition. He was preparing a pipeline to pollute the Persian Gulf. He was not getting out, he was digging in.

Risk Number 3

Those preparations probably helped Hussein ensure that casualties might be higher than if force was used earlier. Continuing with sanctions would have increased casualties if war, in the end, were necessary.

Risk Number 4

There is the incendiary nature of that region, a region that sits on a hair trigger, a ticking time bomb. A continuation of sanctions would have allowed Saddam Hussein to sow discord and to trigger terror.

Risk Number 5

The developing world and Eastern Europe would have continued their tailspin. Unstable oil prices crimp lifestyles in the developed world. Unstable oil prices threaten lives in the developing world.

Risk Number 6

There is our experience with the last five-and-a-half months of sanctions. Despite the near universality of sanctions and adherence to them, important materials were still getting through, strategic materials which help sustain Saddam's ability to wage war. On small planes and small boats and small trucks -- even on pack animals -- spare parts, chemical additions, lubricants and other strategic imports as well as foodstuffs were getting through. If a continuation of sanctions had been accompanied by a crumbling of the Coalition, that material would have multiplied.

Certainly, the civilian economy of Iraq was suffering from sanctions. Trade was down. Inflation was up. Shelves were less full. Factories were closing. But Kuwait is not occupied