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End the Gulf War Now by Bombing Iraq with Perdue Chickens

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Animal Rights Coalition

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the diamondback

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER—UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1991

An open letter to the President of the United States

Dear Mr. President:

End the Gulf War Now by Bombing Iraq with Perdue Chickens

THE USA and BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

As U.S. citizens we all oppose chemical and biological weapons. But, for a number of years we've been waging a kind of germ warfare on our own people in the USA!

According to Dr. Robert V. Tauxe, a leading authority on salmonella with the federal Centers for Disease Control, salmonella causes an estimated 2 to 4 million people to become ill every year, 20,000 to be hospitalized and 1,000 to die. The USDA acknowledges that nearly 40% of all poultry is contaminated with salmonella when it leaves processing plants. Other estimates reach 70% or more.

Why spend billions on cruise missiles and "smart bombs" when we can wipe out the Iraqi army with a few plane loads of chicken parts.

And you'll like this Mr. President, we can do the whole thing under the guise of a humanitarian food lift.

Not just any chicken parts Mr. President. The Pentagon likes to pay top dollar for specialty items like screwdrivers and toilet seats. So it makes sense to use premium chickens like the Perdue brand.

As Mr. Perdue's celebrated yellow chickens come raining out of the sky, Saddam's heart will miss a beat and the Iraqi soldiers will tremble. But moments later, hungry Iraqis will be thankfully scooping up toxic birds. They may die before they eat the birds if they forget to wash their hands after handling them. And with all the money we're going to save, we could probably throw in a few French Fries to make this look like an international coalition effort.

These are premium weapons Mr. President. We have to warn you that on a per pound basis, Perdue chicken bombs are going to cost the American taxpayer more than just any old brand of chicken. But Perdue chickens are still pretty cost-effective compared to cluster bombs.

ONE TINY PROBLEM

There's just one tiny problem with all this Mr. President. As the premier citizen of the United States, you may not like the idea of awarding a major government contract to a guy like Frank Perdue. A background check of Mr. Perdue is going to disclose that he admits to having attempted to boost his corporate profits by working with the Mafia. And in recent months he's incurred record fines for exploiting and endangering the welfare of his workers. He's so tough that it's been reported on National Public Radio that his

female workers urinate right on the workline at his slaughter plants because they were not allowed to leave it to go to the bathroom. And his respect for the environment isn't too terrific — he was the first individual in Virginia's history to be fined by the state for contamination of the waterways.

But, Mr. President, look at it this way. Perdue chickens are fighting chickens. We know this because Mr. Perdue dismembers their beaks with a hot knife so they won't kill each other when 25,000 birds are stuffed into a single shed with less than a square foot per bird. And without these unsanitary living conditions plus unwholesome processing practices, we wouldn't have the benefit of rampant salmonella for our surprise attack would we?

Let's get a Perdue chicken in every Iraqi pot and out of our supermarkets.

Of course biological warfare is ugly and it's just possible we haven't been able to persuade you to bomb the Iraqis with toxic drumsticks. Doing business with someone like Perdue may also be a turn-off. But before you toss this letter aside, you may want to ask Barbara if she wants to stop serving chicken in the White House.

Sincerely,
Henry Spira

Join the campaign to get Perdue off our Board of Regents!

The Animal Rights Coalition

Box #9
Stamp Student Union
University of Maryland — College Park
College Park, MD 20742
(301) 588-1185

- Please send me more information about factory farming.
- Let me know what I can do to stop factory farming and get Frank Perdue off the University of Maryland Board of Regents!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

weekly meetings Tues. 7:30PM Tawes rm. 1202

Obviously, this ad is satirical. The Gulf crisis is no laughing matter and we are deeply concerned for all the lives involved. This ad is not copyrighted. We encourage you or your organization to adapt and use it as you deem appropriate.