



**Speech of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed
Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on the
occasion of the visit of the Members of the Board of
Directors of the Arab Gulf States Institute in
Washington, D.C.**

Monday, 18th of March 2019

Ambassador Frank Wisner, Chairman of the Board,
Madam the President, Ambassador Marcelle Wahba,
Members of the Board of Directors of the Arab Gulf States
Institute in Washington, D.C.,
Dear Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my pleasure to welcome our distinguished guests,
Ambassador Frank Wisner, Ambassador Marcelle Wahba,
the members of the Board of Directors of the Arab Gulf
States Institute in Washington D.C. and their accompanying
delegation, who are our guests on the occasion of the
meetings of the Board in Kuwait. Welcome to Kuwait dear
friends.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thought makers occupy the top rank in civilized societies
and their importance precedes the importance of many other
categories of the society elites, such as opinion makers,
lawmakers and executive decision makers, because these
elites take the thoughts of thought makers and turn them into
public opinions, legal legislations or government actions, and
this is why the progress of societies is measured by the



numbers of researches carried out in their academic institutions, by the liberty given to their thought makers and by the number of their research centres or Think Tanks. It's my pleasure to receive today the members of the Board of Directors of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, D.C., which made the Arab Gulf countries its centre of interest and thoughts. The importance of this spot doesn't only lie in its huge oil reserves or in its sovereign funds of large financial assets, but also because it is located in the Arab Mashreq (the East), the cradle of the first human civilizations, such as Al-Magar, Dilmun, Sumer, Akkad, Ancient Egypt, Ugarit, Assyria, Sheba and others. This area is the secrets box of many contemporary civilizations that are searching for their roots.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Kuwait, we always aim to achieve peace and stability. Our main tool in achieving this is holding on to the international legitimacy represented by the United Nations resolutions and the International Court of Justice. We believe that democracy is the basis of stability for countries, not a source of disintegration under the pretext of supporting the minorities and their demands for independence. We do not consider our oil as a weapon; in respect for the stability of the international community, we consider it a product in the market that is subject to the supply and demand conditions. We are committed to producing according to the market needs without harming the interests of producers and consumers. By our sovereign funds we do not seek to dominate. Our investment strategy is to make profit within the equitable economic policies imposed by countries in their markets. In this regard, I would like to point out that the



financial abundance imposes on rich countries a commitment toward the developing countries to help them establish their infrastructure and superstructure in order to help them progress and develop. On that basis, our policy is giving and assisting without interfering in the internal and external policies of those countries; it's a policy followed by Kuwait since oil revenues started to accumulate, and we are still following this policy. The State of Kuwait has established the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development for this purpose, but the activity of our aid and various contributions exceeds this fund and go beyond the official activity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was proved during the occupation of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein that the strategy of adhering to the international legitimacy is the safe haven for all the member States of the United Nations General Assembly. Through this institution, the aggression against Kuwait was condemned and the decision to liberate Kuwait was taken. The coalition forces, which included many countries of the world, were formed under the leadership of the United States of America. On this occasion, I would like to refer to the position of Ambassador Thomas Pickering who was the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations at the time. On the second of August 1990, as the news of the aggression on Kuwait started to spread, he personally called our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Mohamad Abulhassan, who is amongst us today, to inform him of the start of the brutal invasion. When he did not find him at home, he did not give up. He found out that he was invited to dinner by the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations, so he



contacted the Bahrain's representative at his house and managed to persuade his daughter to give him the name of the Russian Tea Room restaurant where they were having dinner. He called the restaurant and asked the manager of the restaurant to connect him urgently to the Kuwaiti Representative, Ambassador Muhamad Abulhassan. Our representative was amazed by the ability and perseverance of Ambassador Pickering to get through to him. Then Ambassador Pickering recommended to take a quick action in the Security Council. He personally continued to make all the necessary calls to keep up with the situation and make sure that our political leaders reach Saudi Arabia safely and worked on including the Security Council resolution 660 an additional clause stating that Kuwaiti legitimacy should be restored and full withdrawal from the occupied territories of Kuwait should be achieved.

Ambassador Pickering, Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to say that we are proud to have among us today, our dearest friend, Ambassador Edward Skip Gnehm to whom we have a great respect and with whom I worked personally during 7 months in Taef, in Saudi Arabia. We continued to work together after the liberation of my country in which Ambassador Gnhem continued his important task as the ambassador of the United States to the State of Kuwait for many years.

Ambassador Gnehm, again, thank you, thank you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

We in Kuwait will never forget the positions of our friends who supported us in our ordeal, and we will never forget their interaction with us and with the suffering of our people. We will never forget those who supported us with a word or a position, nor those who helped our citizens fleeing from the hell of occupation, or those who contributed to the liberation of Kuwait through diplomatic, military or humanitarian efforts. We will always remember our friends in the United States of America, the country that bore the brunt of the efforts of the International Coalition for the Liberation of Kuwait.

Dear friends, I would like to reiterate my warm welcome to you and to the members of the accompanying delegation. We are proud to welcome you to hold your meetings in the State of Kuwait and we wish you all the best.