Column by Matthew H. Hersch

If one has any piece of foreign policy advice for his successor, in the era of his inauguration, it would be to drop his insistence on always showing his complete agreement with the Bush Administration on foreign affairs and admit that for all intents and purposes, George Bush's 41st presidency since the moment he stepped into office has been foiled at best and outright sabotage at worst. As a result, George Bush has left Clinton with the most difficult transition since Lyndon Johnson turned over the reins of power to Richard Nixon during the height of the Vietnam War.

There's a lot to be said about Bush's blundering in the Persian Gulf, and a lot of losers Clinton needs to learn if he hopes to end the crises the Bush Administration perhaps did not start, but certainly at least helped to expand out of control. Fortunately, Clinton and Gore have already learned the most important lesson of them — that Saddam Hussein must go. Here are a few more of the biggies:

The only way to hurt a dictator is to take away the oil that keeps him in power. I like a cruise missile attack just as much as the next guy, but at $1 million a pop, the least you can do is pick good targets. Saddam Hussein doesn't really care if the United States turns nuclear production centers, and air defense sites are only peripheral to his power base. Continued American attacks on the "political" rather than military targets only strengthen Iraq's resolve to protect Saddam's political image as an immortal Arab hero. If the United States really wants to pull the plug on Saddam Hussein's regime, it should be doing far better at the targets that really matter — remaining units of the Republican Guard and offensive weapons Saddam will use to start his next war.

Destroy the Arab oil weapon. For much too long, the United States has allowed its foreign policy to be dominated by its need to coddle oil-rich sultans. If he eliminates the Gulf to be dominated by its need to coddle oil-rich sultans. If he eliminates the Gulf to be dominated by its need to coddle oil-rich sultans. If he eliminates the

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