

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

AF
9216734

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 10, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. RICE M. TILLEY JR.

SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING THE SALE OF F-16 FIGHTERS
TO TAIWAN

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JUNE WALSH		ORG	92/08/10	<i>DJ</i>	<i>C 92/09/16</i>
DEPARTMENT OF STATE	REFERRAL NOTE: <i>RL</i>	RAR	92/08/10		<i>A no date given</i>
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:			<i>DJ</i>	
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: _____ MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                       *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *      OF SIGNER    *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED        *      CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *      OUTGOING    *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

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9216734

(817) 878-6350

August 3, 1992

Kelly
The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Re: General Dynamics—Sale of
F-16 Fighters to Taiwan

Dear President Bush:

I am writing you in two capacities—first, as a former Chairman of the Board of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, and second, as an active member (as you know) of both the Tarrant County Republican Party and the State Republican Party.

Chamber Perspective

In my capacity as Chairman of the Board of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, I have led four trade mission trips to the Republic of China on Taiwan. Our missions included the Mayor and several members of the City Council of the City of Fort Worth, the Speaker of the Texas House, and several members of the Texas House (in addition to an impressive group of local business leaders). We met with the President of Taiwan and most of their top elected and appointed officials.

~~The City of Fort Worth~~ has painstakingly established a close relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan, and this relationship is now in serious jeopardy because of Taiwan's inability to purchase the Fort Worth-produced F-16.

This is particularly regrettable since the Republic of China on Taiwan has been one of our country's staunchest allies since the 1940's.

Failure to sell the F-16's to Taiwan will: (1) foster a deterioration of our relations with Taiwan; and (2) weaken one of our country's top defense contractors while strengthening a foreign competitor (since Taiwan will simply purchase Mirage jets).

The Honorable George Bush
August 3, 1992
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I am well aware of your exemplary record of service as Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, but I am confident that public sentiment following the Tianenmen Square incident does **not** favor turning our back on a proven ally in order to appease the current dictatorship of the People's Republic of China.

Republican Party Perspective

From a political standpoint, the closing of Carswell Air Force Base, previous F-16 cutbacks, and Secretary Cheney's determined fight against the V-22 Tilt-Rotor Aircraft have caused a substantial number of local voters to view the Republican Party with disdain, if not hostility. For these reasons, I am deeply concerned about how well the Republican Party will do in Tarrant County, and in Texas, in the November elections. **Your forceful leadership in overriding the State Department's position on the proposed F-16 sale to Taiwan will provide a major boost to Republican chances in November.**

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,


Rice M. Tilley, Jr.

RMTjr/rac
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P.S.— Please give my best regards to Barbara. Also, George W. is doing a great job with the Texas Rangers (despite the current slump!).



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for Politico-Military Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

Mr. Rice M. Tilley, Jr.
Law, Snakard & Gambill
3200 Team Bank Building
500 Throckmorton Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Mr. Tilley:

I am responding on behalf of President Bush to your letter of August 3 regarding the sale of F-16 combat aircraft to Taiwan.

I am pleased to tell you that the President announced on September 2 that the U.S. will sell 150 F-16A/B combat aircraft to Taiwan in accordance with our obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act. This will help Taiwan maintain a sufficient self-defense capability.

This decision reflects the President's determination to make sure U.S. industry is supported in its campaign to compete successfully in the global market place. The F-16 sale demonstrates that we will be competitive in Taiwan, in defense and other industries.

I can assure you President Bush is committed to promoting jobs at home through U.S. trade abroad. Thank you for your letter to the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Gallucci".

Robert L. Gallucci

Enclosure: correspondence returned.