

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FO 003

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 16, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE LUCIEN E. BLACKWELL

SUBJECT: OPPOSES THE PROPOSED SALE OF F-15 AND F-16
FIGHTER JETS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF TAIWAN
AND SAUDI ARABIA

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
NICK CALIO NS SITT	ORG	92/09/16		C 92/09/22
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	A	92/09/22		1/1
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
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REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230
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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350551

LUCIEN E. BLACKWELL  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE

September 15, 1992

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

*N. Calio*

I am writing to express my utmost concern over the proposed sale of F-15 and F-16 fighter jets to the governments of Taiwan and Saudi Arabia.

Since my election to Congress in November of last year, I have worked hard to bring the concerns of my constituents to the forefront of the legislative agenda. As you may well know, the city of Philadelphia has experienced a great deal of economic misery in recent years, and many people have grown weary of a federal government that is no longer able serve their needs in an adequate fashion. In particular, there is a genuine sense of disdain among my constituency for the continued proliferation of defense systems at a time when so many in our nation are hurting.

I share the feelings held by the residents of Pennsylvania's Second Congressional District, and citizens throughout the nation who are firm in their commitment to seeing the United States strive for world peace. Over the course of the last few years millions of people across the globe have been blessed with the gift of freedom, and I firmly believe that we are heading towards the next century with a renewed sense of hope and optimism for those who still feel the shackles of oppression. In order to realize these goals, we must lay down our arms, and join with the family of nations to achieve a real peace.

The continued production of F-15 and F-16 fighter jets is a blatant obstacle in the path of genuine world-wide peace. One need look no further than the utter destruction and loss of life experienced by the innocent people Somalia and Yugoslavia to realize that war is wrong, and the preparation for war is wrong. I certainly recognize there are communities throughout the country that rely on the sale of these jets for their economic livelihood. The time has come however, to take this money, and employ these workers to rebuild our nation's cities and rural communities, which are in desperate need of revitalization. We must end our financial addiction to weapons whose only purpose is to spread death and misery for people in countries throughout the world.

The President  
September 10, 1992  
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I do not believe that this is a partisan issue, but a simple human issue. Albert Einstein once said that "you cannot simultaneously prepare for war and peace". I respectfully urge you to reconsider your decision to proceed with the sale of these war planes. Do not detract from your many accomplishments by continuing to promote the sale of weapons of destruction to unstable nations. Instead, make the hard choices that will allow the United States to become a leader in the name of peace, and create the kind of world that will make our children proud of us. I look forward to working with you to accomplish these goals.

With warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucien E. Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lucien E. Blackwell  
Member of Congress