

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ND001

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 21, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO RECONSIDER HIS
DECISION AND REVERSE HIS POSITION ON THE
SALE OF F-16 AIRCRAFT TO TAIWAN

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
NICK CALIO		ORG	92/08/21	NC	A	92/08/28
NSSITT	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	R	92/09/03			1/1
99 DOD	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	E	92/09/04			1/1
99 DOS	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	E	92/09/04			1/1
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		1/1			1/1
	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
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

ROBERT G. TORRICELLI
9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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346333
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
317 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3009
202-225-5061
DISTRICT OFFICE:
COURT PLAZA
25 MAIN STREET
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601
201-848-1111

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3009

August 20, 1992

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am concerned about existing policy relating to the sale of F-16 aircraft to Taiwan. Throughout the last decade, the United States has refused to sell Taiwan fighter aircraft as a result of our relationship with the People's Republic of China (PRC). Today, however, the changing economic and political climate in Southeast Asia and worldwide demands that this policy be reconsidered.

Since the demise of the Soviet Union, the PRC has launched a campaign to upgrade its military air power capacity. Chinese officials recently announced that they had purchased 48 Su-27 fighter jets from Russia and that they expect to purchase another 24 Su-27 jets and 24 MiG-31 fighter interceptors in the future. China is also in the process of building a factory in which it plans to manufacture 200 of its own MiG-31s. This buildup is of deep concern to many of our allies in the region and will certainly have an adverse impact on the balance of power in East Asia.

To meet its new security needs, the government of Taiwan has decided to bolster its air defenses. However, when Taiwan petitioned the United States to buy American F-16 aircraft, the sale was denied. As a consequence, the Taiwanese have turned to France to purchase Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets. A contract with France appears imminent.

Our policy to deny Taiwan the sale of these fighter aircraft must be re-examined. Not only does it jeopardize Taiwan's security, but it could cost thousands of American aerospace jobs and threatens the viability and competitiveness of our domestic aerospace industry. We also must question whether it makes sense to deny our aerospace industry the benefits of this sale when Taiwan will end up with a similar product from France.

In addition, there is no legal impediment to proceeding with the transaction. The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, which defines our relationship with Taiwan, does not prohibit the sale of military aircraft to the island.

The President
August 20, 1992
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In light of all of the above, I urge you to reconsider your decision and reverse your position on the R-16 transaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Torricelli', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

ROBERT G. TORRICELLI
Member of Congress