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# FOIA MARKER

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**WHORM Category Code:** CO072  
**WHORM Category Name:** Iraq, Republic of

**Document Number:** 042905 to 164275      **Entire Category Processed**  
**Alpha File Name:**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 072

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 03, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE PAUL SIMON

SUBJECT: FORWARDS COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM BABIL  
GABRIEL REGARDING ASSYRIANS IN IRAQ

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
FREDERICK MCCLURE		ORG	90/08/03	FM	A 90/08/07	LJ
9900x	REFERRAL NOTE:	R	90/08/14		A 90/09/06	LJ
LAmce	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	90/09/12		C 90/09/12	LJ
	REFERRAL NOTE: <i>gyp</i>		/ /		/ /	
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /	
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /	

COMMENTS: SEE ID 154489

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210  
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.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

**TRANSMITTAL FORM**

S/S 9017940

Date September 7, 1990

FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann  
Executive Secretary  
National Security Council Staff  
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush  
From: Paul Simon  
Date: July 30, 1990  
Subject: Forwards copy of correspondence from Babil  
Gabriel regarding Assyrians in Iraq

WH Referral Dated: August 14, 1990  
NSCS ID# (if any): 163936

The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached.  
 A draft reply will be forwarded.  
 A translation is attached.  
 An information copy of a direct reply is attached.  
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.  
 The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.  
 Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:

  
Director  
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SEP 6 1990

Dear Senator Simon:

Thank you for your letter to the President of July 30, 1990, on behalf of Babil Gabriel. Mr. Gabriel wrote to you to express his concern about the plight of the Assyrian community in Iraq.

Over the years, the question of human rights has been a key element of our dialogue with the Government of Iraq. We have lost no opportunity to press home our concerns, particularly with regard to the mistreatment of ethnic and religious minorities such as the Assyrians. Let me assure you that we will continue to use all appropriate channels, including the United Nations, to make these concerns clear.

For Mr. Gabriel's information, I have enclosed a copy of the State Department's most recent Human Rights Report for Iraq.

Sincerely,

Wm/25/7  
Janet G. Mullins  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Correspondence returned
2. 1989 Human Rights Report

The Honorable  
Paul Simon,  
United States Senate.

9017940

T H E   W H I T E   H O U S E   O F F I C E

REFERRAL

AUGUST 14, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:  
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 163936  
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 30, 1990  
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH  
FROM: THE HONORABLE PAUL SIMON  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON DC 20510  
SUBJECT: FORWARDS COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM BABIL  
GABRIEL REGARDING ASSYRIANS IN IRAQ

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN  
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE  
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE  
(OR DRAFT) TO:  
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

August 7, 1990

Dear Senator Simon:

Thank you very much for your recent correspondence forwarding a letter to the President which you received from your constituent, Mr. Babil Gabriel, President of the Assyrian American Association of Chicago.

We appreciate your bringing Mr. Gabriel's letter to our attention. Please know that I have forwarded your correspondence to the appropriate office for further attention.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure  
Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Paul Simon  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

FDM:SLM:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - for direct response

PAUL SIMON  
ILLINOIS

163936  
COMMITTEES:  
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
JUDICIARY  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
BUDGET

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1302

July 30, 1990

*F. McClure*

The Honorable George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. President:

One of my constituents from Illinois, Babil Gabriel, has requested that I draw your attention to a letter he sent you earlier this year. Apparently he has not yet received a reply.

I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Gabriel's correspondence for your convenience. Any help you could provide my constituent on this matter would be appreciated.

My best wishes.

Cordially,



Paul Simon  
United States Senator

PS/mdq

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**ASSYRIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO, INC.**

**ܐܘܪܝܝܢܐ ܐܡܝܪܝܩܐܝܐ ܕܚܝܩܘܗܐܝܝܐ**

1618 WEST DEVON AVE., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60660

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EDUCATION  
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UNITY

June 26, 1990

**URGENT  
PETITION TO:**

The Honorable George Bush  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington D.C.

Dear President Bush:

Assyrians, a Christian national minority of 1,000,000 in Iraq, are today struggling for their survival. Their identity, language and culture are being eradicated by the government of Iraq through official policy. As the ideals and convictions of the United States government are to encourage world governments to establish and promote greater democracy and preserve human and cultural rights of ethnic minorities in a dominant society, we are making an earnest appeal to you, Mr. President, to use your channel of communication with the Iraqi government to safeguard and preserve the God-given rights of the Assyrian minority in their homeland Iraq.

Many Iraqi dissidents in the United States, including Assyrian nationalists, over the last 20 years and to the present, have been closely watched, harassed and even threatened for speaking out in support of democracy and human and cultural rights in Iraq.

The January 7, 1979 edition of The London Sunday Telegraph wrote: "In Iraq, 605 Christians are reported to have been imprisoned in the past two months, mostly in Baghdad and two provincial centers, Kirkuk and Basrah. They include some

*AFFILIATED WITH THE ASSYRIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL FEDERATION*

Assyrian Christians and a Norwegian pastor." These Iraqi citizens were detained while attending a Bible study session.

Late in 1981, just before Christmas, the Iraqi government issued its Order No. 32. The decree officially imposed governmental control on the Assyrian Apostolic and Chaldean Catholic churches in Iraq, stipulating that all patriarchs, bishops and priests as of December, 1981 were employees of the government and subject to its secular laws. Assyrian schools, whose goal is to teach Assyrian language, history and culture to Assyrian children, are banned today in Iraq. Iraqi historians are officially encouraged to revise and rewrite the history of Assyrians and to rename it as the history of Iraqi Arabs, which is a distortion of history.

Over the last 15 years, there has been a systematic destruction of Assyrian villages, homes, orchards and monasteries in northern Iraq where Assyrians reside. Thousands of Assyrian villagers and farmers have been uprooted and dispersed and resettled in makeshift housing in southern Iraq, away from their traditional lands. [See 1989 U.S. Congress Report on Human Rights.] The intent is the eradication of Assyrian heritage and identity in the Assyrian ancestral hometowns.

Assyrians appeared on the stage of history about 3,000 years before Christ. Assyria, a city kingdom organized around the first capital, Ashur, located on the left banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, in upper Mesopotamia, flourished in the northern part of what is today Iraq. The cultural contributions to civilization by the ancient Assyrians are so vast that many scholars today devote their lives to the study of facets of that culture. In art, language, myths and epic tales, religion, political organization, law and astronomy, the accomplishments of the Assyrians have profoundly shaped the present-day culture of the world.

Mr. President, we request your honor to look into the clear and present danger facing the Assyrians of Iraq. We appeal to your sense of justice and fairness to use your good offices with the Iraqi government, with whom the U.S. maintains diplomatic and economic ties, and intercede on behalf of the native people of Iraq, the Assyrian minority. Let there be a constitutional

recognition to address the long-standing native demands of Assyrians for recognition and preservation of their distinct national identity, history, culture, language and heritage in their homeland, to which they are deeply devoted.

Sincerely yours,

**ASSYRIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF CHICAGO**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Babil Gabriel".

**Babil Gabriel  
President**

**BG:ac**