

Original FOIA Number: 1998-0099-F

2nd FOIA Number:

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Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
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WHORM Category Code: CO072
WHORM Category Name: Iraq, Republic of

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ID# 168015

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 072

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 21, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE FRANK MCCLOSKEY

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO CLOSELY EXAMINE THE
LEGAL AND MORAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE FOOD
EMBARGO AGAINST 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	90/08/21	FM		A9008/22 LJ
NSS/TT	REFERRAL NOTE:	R	90/08/27 LJ			T /
99DOS	REFERRAL NOTE:	F	90/08/28 LJ			T /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /			/ /
	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.

August 22, 1990

Dear Congressman McCloskey:

Thank you very much for your recent letter to the President regarding the U.S. embargo on food supplies intended for Iraq.

We appreciate being apprised of your concerns regarding the consequences of the embargo on food shipments. Please know that your comments have been shared with the President. Additionally, I have taken the liberty of providing your remarks to the President's foreign policy advisors so that they, too, are aware of your concerns.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Frank McCloskey
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:SLM:

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

6 FRANK McCLOSKEY

8TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

PROCUREMENT AND
MILITARY NUCLEAR SYSTEMS
INVESTIGATIONS
DEFENSE POLICY PANEL

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE
COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, POSTAL OPERATIONS
AND SERVICES
CIVIL SERVICE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 16, 1990

F McClure
The Honorable George Bush
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to commend your decision to take decisive action in response to Iraqi aggression.

Clearly, it is important to respond to the invasion of Kuwait and to the threat Saddam Hussein represents to the stability of the entire region. I agree that it is vital that the United States join with the world community in seeking to uphold basic principles of international law to prevent a military dictator from seeking to impose his will upon his neighbors through direct intimidation and take a strong moral position against the violent violation of an independent country's sovereignty. In undertaking this venture, clearly it is imperative that we and our allies hold to the high moral and legal standard which we are defending.

For these reasons, I applaud your humanitarian gesture of excluding medicinal supplies from the embargo, however, I am concerned by your decision to include food supplies in this embargo. I realize that Iraq is very vulnerable to an economic embargo and that the fact that Iraq imports over seventy percent of its food makes Iraq uniquely susceptible to an embargo on shipments of food. However, Mr. President, this embargo on food assistance will have very devastating consequences within Iraq and I would urge you to closely examine the legal, and moral, consequences of this food embargo.

Given the known ruthlessness of Saddam Hussein, it is uncertain whether he will provide sufficient food supplies to the civilian population in times of shortages. As you know, fifty percent of Iraq's population is under the age of 16. The food embargo may directly contribute to the suffering of children and others who may not be willing followers of Saddam Hussein. In addition, there are thousands of foreign nationals, including over three thousand Americans, in Iraq and Kuwait. It is uncertain whether these individuals will continue to receive sufficient food should severe shortages occur in Iraq.

In 1962, with offensive missiles in Cuba posing a direct threat to the territory

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812-334-1111

FEDERAL BUILDING, ROOM 124
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EVANSVILLE, IN 47708-1951
812-465-6484

10 N.E. FOURTH STREET
WASHINGTON, IN 47501-2904
812-254-6646

The Honorable George Bush
Page Two
August 16, 1990

of the United States, President Kennedy ordered a total blockade of Cuba, save food and medical supplies. Today, the United States is faced with another significant international crisis and is again applying an embargo, however, food is not exempted from the embargo. You ordered our troops to defend Saudi Arabia not merely to defend our national interests in the Middle East, but to reaffirm our country's commitment to defend moral and legal principles. The means by which we seek to uphold these principles must also conform to these high standards.

I have grave concerns that preventing food from reaching Iraq will not just impair Saddam Hussein's military capabilities, but will also have a severe negative impact on Iraqi civilians, including millions of children, and foreign nationals, including Americans. Starving a country would not appear to be in America's long-term interest of winning the hearts and minds of the Arab population throughout the Middle East.

I would appreciate a rapid response as to what analysis has been done to examine the human impact of a food embargo. In addition, I would be interested in knowing whether contingency plans have been developed to allow humanitarian food assistance to the people of Iraq should severe shortages occur. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank M. McCloskey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Frank McCloskey,
Member of Congress

FM/pw

cc: The Honorable James Baker III
Secretary of State