

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CO 072

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 27, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MS. VIRGINIA HAMILTON

SUBJECT: URGES CONSIDERATION OF AN EMERGENCY
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO MAINTAIN FIRST ASYLUM
IN JORDAN FOR WOULD-BE REFUGEES AND DISPLACED
PERSONS ATTEMPTING TO FLEE IRAQ

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
SHIREE SANCHEZ		ORG	90/08/27		C 9/10/127 LJ
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

*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 *			*

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.



169700

U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

1025 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 920
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 347-3507 Fax: (202) 347-3418

Informing the public since 1958

August 23, 1990

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge the U.S. government to consider an emergency allocation of significant funds to maintain first asylum in Jordan for would-be refugees and displaced persons attempting to flee Iraq.

As you know, the Jordanian government today announced that it has closed its border with Iraq for everyone except Jordanian nationals. We fear that this will likely close the only escape route available to tens of thousands of persons fearing for their lives or safety.

At the same time, we realize that Jordan finds itself in a difficult situation not of its own making and legitimately feels overwhelmed by the prospect of assisting hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons.

The United States has long predicated its refugee policy on the principle of preserving first asylum. This assumes that the burden for responding to mass forced movements should not be borne alone by those states who have the misfortune of geographical location in conflict areas, but should be shared internationally. This reality has proven the basis for the leadership exerted by the United States in providing refugee assistance for countries such as Pakistan and Thailand over the course of the last decade. We believe that the current emergency in the Middle East requires similar leadership.

We realize that decision-making at this time requires the factoring in of a myriad of geopolitical considerations. We ask, however, at this critical moment, that we not lose sight of the humanitarian concerns for the first victims of conflict--innocent, uprooted civilian populations--and the need to move expeditiously and effectively to protect them.

Sincerely,

Virginia Hamilton
Virginia Hamilton
Assistant Director

cc: King Hussein, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
UN High Commissioner for Refugees Thorvald Stoltenberg