TO: FASCELL, DANTE B

FROM: SCOWCROFT

KEYWORDS: IRAQ

CO

KUWAIT

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN FASCELL LTR TO PRES RE US POLICY TOWARD IRAQ

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD MEMO

DUE DATE: 28 OCT 90

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

CHARLES

NSC CHRON

COMMENTS:


DISPATCHED BY WJT DATE 11/2/90 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJWD CLOSED BY: NSMJT DOC 3 OF 3

UNCLASSIFIED
DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 HAASS
002 SCOWCROFT
002 CHARLES
002 SCOWCROFT
003

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 90101216 PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT
Z 90102519 FOR SIGNATURE
Z 90102613 FOR FURTHER ACTION
Z 90102710 FOR SIGNATURE
X 90110219 SCOWCROFT SGD MEMO
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1990

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter to the President of October 2, 1990 concerning U.S. policy toward Iraq. We too are keenly aware of the historic import of the events both preceding and during the current crisis, and consistent with both the law and our practice, are maintaining records that document the events and policy decisions. Once the crisis is behind us, we will be in a better position to determine the extent of any policy review that might be undertaken.

Again, I appreciate your suggestion and interest on this issue of serious importance to our national security.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
October 23, 1990

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: SANDRA CHARLES

SUBJECT: Response to Congressman FasceII

Attached at Tab I is a response to Congressman FasceII’s letter to the President (Tab II) concerning the need to review past actions related to U.S. policy toward Iraq that led to the current crisis, and prepare a report and recommendations for the Congress. Your response reassures him our record-keeping but makes no promises on a post-crisis "white paper."

Ginny Landley concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the response to Congressman FasceII at Tab I.

Attachments
Tab I Response to Congressman FasceII
Tab II Letter from Congressman FasceII
October 10, 1990

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President expressing your thoughts on the importance of a timely review of U.S. actions prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

I have shared your comments with the President and he appreciates your counsel. I have also provided copies of your letter to General Scowcroft and a number of other administration officials for their prompt review and consideration. You should receive a more detailed response in the near future.

Thank you again for writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:HGP:
bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for DIRECT response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept of State - FYI
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of Defense - FYI
October 2, 1990

Mr. Nicholas Calio
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Calio:

Chairman Fascecll asked that I send the enclosed letter to the President through you.

If you wish to contact me, I may be reached at (202) 225-5021.

Sincerely,

R. Michael Finley
Deputy Chief of Staff

RMF:dmh
enclosure
| Ken Hill | 1 | A |
| Bill Sittmann | 2 | Copy |
| Bob Gates | 3 | |
| Brent Scowcroft | | |
| Bill Sittmann | | |
| Situation Room | | |
| West Wing Desk | 4 | 2/10/26 |
| NSC Secretariat | 5 | FFA |

**A = Action**  **I = Information**  **D = Dispatch**  **R = Retain**  **N = No further Action**

**cc:** VP Sununu Other

Should be seen by: ____________________________ (Date/Time)

**COMMENTS**

*Please make correction on Tab 1.*

**DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:**
National Security Council
The White House

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cc: VP Sununu Other ____________________

Should be seen by: ____________________ (Date/Time)

COMMENTS

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:
The Honorable George H.W. Bush
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Full responsibility for the invasion of Kuwait rests with the government of Iraq. There is not and cannot be any other conclusion regarding culpability for the Persian Gulf crisis.

Legitimate questions have arisen, however, within Congress and amongst the American people as to whether the United States did all it could have done to discourage Iraq's aggressive action. Now is not the time for a public debate on what might have been done. Retrospection makes experts of us all, unfortunately after the fact.

But it is important that we review past actions to assure that our future policies have the benefit of experience gained. In this particular instance I believe that it is extremely important that a determination be made about what actually happened and what was done right or wrong in our relations with Iraq since you became President. To assure the necessary objectivity for such a review I believe it should be conducted by persons not now employed by the government who have not had direct involvement in the issues involved. A report and accompanying recommendations should be shared with the Congress after the Persian Gulf Crisis has been resolved.

Whether or not you choose to take steps now to review US policy toward Iraq I urge you to take appropriate steps now to assure that all documents which might relate to our policy be preserved and that, while memories are fresh, historical statements be taken from those who had any part to play.
The Honorable George H.W. Bush  
October 2, 1990

Page Two

Mr. President, in making this suggestion, I in no way wish to suggest any diminution whatsoever in my support or that of the Congress for the strong and effective steps you are taking in response to Iraq's totally unjustified actions.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dante B. Fascell  
Chairman

DBF:RMFdmh
Mr. Nicholas Calio  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.  20500

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