

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 072

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 06, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ROBERT SMITH

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER SENDING  
MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT		ORG	91/03/06		
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4620

MI 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.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

OFFICE OF  
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 21, 1991

**NOTE FOR:** Sally Kelley  
Director of Agency Liaison  
The White House

**FROM :** Julia Escalona *Julia Escalona*  
Chief  
Communications Coordination Staff

**SUBJECT :** Letters to President Bush from  
Mr. Robert Smith (ID #218021)

Attached for your files is a copy of the response letter sent by the Agency for International Development to Mr. Robert Smith. I am also returning the original referral sheet, correspondence tracking worksheet, and the incoming letter.

If you have any questions, please call me at 647-8511.

Attachments: a/s

Agency for International Development  
Washington, D.C. 20523

March 21, 1991

Mr. Robert Smith  
The Reporter Newspapers  
101 Milwaukee Boulevard S.  
Pacific, Washington, 98047

Dear Mr. Smith,

The White House has asked the Agency for International Development to respond to your letter to President Bush regarding the provision of medical supplies to Iraq. As you may know, at a press conference on March 1, 1991, the President made clear his position in favor of providing humanitarian assistance to Iraq for emergency health care needs, particularly those of Iraqi children. The State Department has issued guidance to private voluntary organizations which encourages private initiatives to provide humanitarian assistance in the region in the aftermath of the war. I have enclosed a copy of the guidance for your information.

At present, there are two international organizations working in Iraq: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UNICEF, The United Nations Children's Fund, which are responding to the immediate health needs of the people, including the delivery of medical supplies.

Thank you for your expression of interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

*JS*  
James A. Bever  
Gulf Crisis  
Strategic Planning Task Force

Enclosure: A/S

Clearances:  
OFDA: DMaxwell (draft)  
NEA/NGA: CDunne (draft)

NHooft:3/20/91:1143D

TO: Interaction and VITA

The Department of State has provided the following guidance for PVOs interested in providing humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people:

- The United States Government supports privately-funded efforts by voluntary organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq, especially medicines and health care for children.
- UN-mandated sanctions remain in effect. The ICRC and UNICEF are currently working with the UN Sanctions Committee to secure necessary permission for relief assistance. PVOs may want to coordinate with these organizations to facilitate relief efforts within the framework of current restrictions.
- Under Executive Order No. 12722 of August 2, 1990, and 12724 of August 9, 1990, there are restrictions on exports, the transfer of funds, and travel to, as well as activities in, Iraq. Private voluntary organizations interested in assisting Iraq/Iraqis should contact the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Department of the Treasury at (202) 535-9449 to obtain necessary licenses.
- The Department of State has issued a travel advisory that strongly warns American citizens, for reasons of personal safety, to avoid all travel to Iraq. Operations at the American Embassy in Baghdad have been suspended, thus preventing the U.S. from providing routine diplomatic protection or consular assistance to Americans who may travel to Iraq. U.S. passports cannot be used for such travel unless specifically validated by the Department of State.
- Should you believe travel by your staff is absolutely critical to your aid efforts, the Department recommends that interested PVOs use non-American personnel.

Drafted:NEA/NGA:CWDunne  
SENGAGEN 2322 x76111 3/11/91  
Cleared:NEA:DLMack

NEA/NGA:EJHull  
NEA/RA:AKEiswetter  
P:MMalinowski  
AID/OFDA:MLittle  
AID/OFDA:FCole  
AID/GC:STisa  
L/NEA:LMandel  
L/EBC:PClayman  
CA/OCS:LRussell  
IO/SR:Mustain  
EB/ITC/EWT:LRoeder

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

REFERRAL

MARCH 8, 1991

TO: AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 218021

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 26, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. ROBERT SMITH  
PUBLISHER  
THE REPORTER NEWSPAPERS  
101 MILWAUKEE BOULEVARD SOUTH  
PACIFIC WA 98047

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER SENDING  
MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE PEOPLE OF 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

218021

# THE Reporter NEWSPAPERS

News for Food Stores, Restaurants, Taverns and Suppliers

1991 MAR 11 A 10:08

1991 MAR 11 A 10:08  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
AID

Associate Member: USAID Feb. 26, 1991

- Restaurant Association of the State of Washington
- Washington State Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association
- Washington Wine Institute
- Washington State Food Dealers Association
- Northwest Deli Council
- Washington State Licensed Beverage Association

President George Bush  
The White House

Dear President Bush,

On the eve of an unparalleled victory in current military history, there is an opportunity for you to make a lasting gesture that shows the United States to be nation of compassion. If you are not yet planning to do so, please consider sending medical supplies to the people of Iraq.

My questions may seem naive, but they demand to be asked:

Since we have not sustained massive casualties, are there surpluses of medical supplies on our hospital ships which we can airdrop to the people of Iraq?

Can medical supplies also be provided to the Iraqi soldiers, who have sustained extensive injuries, and who do not share our advantage of medical support?

Can we rush materials that will improve the possibility the Iraqi civilians will have safe water to drink?

While we may forgo the reconstruction of Iraq, can we not transcend the temptation to ignore the hurt of innocent civilians and show the world that Americans have compassion?

I don't know if we have the resources to help these unhappy people. And I'm not sure they would ever feel grateful if we extended a healing hand. But it is not only for them that we should do this. I think we must also do it for ourselves. We must not forget that these are fellow human beings and that if we harm others without misgivings we harm ourselves as well.

Sincerely,

Robert Smith  
Publisher