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: AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

REFERRAL NOTE:

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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4620 _____

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) ________ (B) ________ (C) ________

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING
* * *COORESPONDENCE:
*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 75,0EOB) Ext 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.
March 21, 1991

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

FROM :  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
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,

/]

James A. Bever
Gulf Crisis
Strategic Planning Task Force

Enclosure: A/S

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

NHooff: 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.
THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

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
Feb. 26, 1991

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 a 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