

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

00072

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 27, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. HESKEL M. HADDAD M.D.

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES VIEWS REGARDING REPARATIONS FOR
JEWS WHO WERE FORCED TO FLEE IRAQ OVER 40
YEARS AGO

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
KATHY JEAVONS		ORG	91/03/27		
✓ 99-DOS	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	91/04/05		C 91/04/03
	REFERRAL NOTE:				A 91/05/21
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4900 4400 _____

PL 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.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9106021

Date May 22, 1991

FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush
From: Dr. Heskell M. Haddad
Date: March 1, 1991
Subject: Expressing views regarding reparations for Jews who
were forced to flee Iraq over 40 years ago

WH Referral Dated: April 5, 1991
NSCS ID# (if any): 224162

The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached.
 A draft reply will be forwarded.
 A translation is attached.
 An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.
 The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.
 Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Karen Emmerson
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

SITUATION ROOM

91 MAY 22 PM 11 : 05

WHITE HOUSE

UNCLASSIFIED
RECEIVED
91 MAY 23 AM 7 : 02



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 21, 1991

Heskel M. Haddad, M.D.
President
American Committee for Rescue and
Resettlement of Iraqi Jews, Inc.
1200 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10029

Dear Dr. Haddam:

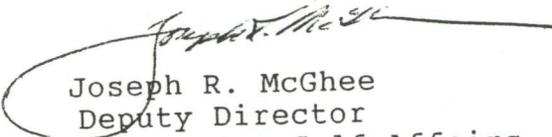
I have been asked to respond to your letter of March 1 to the President, concerning reparations to former Iraqi Jews who left that country prior to 1948.

As you know, the U.N. has played a lead role in requiring Iraq to pay reparations to Kuwaitis and others who suffered losses due to Iraq's recent incursion into Kuwait. The ability to effectively impose and enforce payments requires international consensus on Iraq's liability.

Fashioning an international consensus on reparations for the forcible expulsion of Jewish families from Iraq prior to 1948 is likely to be more difficult and inevitably raise issues of Palestinian rights of return or compensation. We therefore think it unlikely, as a practical matter, that claims such as yours can be addressed outside a broad settlement of Middle East issues.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us on this important topic.

Sincerely,


Joseph R. McGhee
Deputy Director
Office of Northern Gulf Affairs
(Iran and Iraq)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

9106021
'91 APR-05 3:24 PM
APRIL 5, 1991

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 224162
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 1, 1991
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH
FROM: DR. HESKEL M. HADDAD M.D.
PRESIDENT
AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE AND
RESETTLEMENT OF IRAQI JEWS, INC.
1200 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10029

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES VIEWS REGARDING REPARATIONS FOR
JEWS WHO WERE FORCED TO FLEE IRAQ OVER 40
YEARS AGO

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

AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE AND RESETTLEMENT OF IRAQI JEWS, INC.

1200 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10029

HESKEL M. HADDAD, M.D.

PRESIDENT

March 1, 1991

K. Jewons
President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

As pre- "Desert Storm" refugee from Iraq - having been forced to flee some forty years ago - I feel this is an appropriate moment to address you in the matter of reparations for my fellow expatriots.

More than 150,000 Jews resided in Iraq prior to 1948. My own and most other Jewish families had lived in the area now known as Iraq since its earliest Biblical existence as Babylonia, long before the Arabs arrived on the scene. Nevertheless, after suffering government instigated pogroms, incarcerations and the same indignities inflicted by the Nazis in Europe (whose cause was espoused by Iraq), we were driven out and all we owned expropriated.

We departed penniless from a land we loved, allowed one suitcase each, and even that was examined and stripped of anything of value. The real estate alone, stolen from us, equaled in area more than the entire land of Israel. This, of course, also occurred in the other Arab countries, but I can speak most authoritatively of my own experience.

The primary motivation of the Arab states, apart from the acquisition of enormous assets, was the drowning of Israel in a flood of destitute refugees. Fortunately they were, in time, absorbed as citizens of the new Israel rather than left, like the Palestinians, to fester by their fellow Arabs.

Currently there are 35,000 first-and-second-generation Iraqi Jews in the United States, 50,000 in the United Kingdom, and 250,000 in Israel. Most of the latter live in Ramat Gan, which sustained the most severe damage from Scud missiles. For the second time, the same innocents have been grossly afflicted by Iraq.

I believe the time has come for the United States, in its leadership role in the Middle East, to champion our cause and press for restitution. If Kuwaitis are entitled to compensation for their losses, as of course they are, "even-handedness" demands the same insistence on behalf of Iraqi Jews and Jews of other Arab Countries.

Respectfully yours,



Heskell M. Haddad, M.D.
President

HMH:cs