INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 04, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JAMES H. BILBRAY

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT NOT TO TURN HIS BACK ON THE PLAGUE OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE IN IRAQ

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**ROUTE TO:**
**OFFICE/AGENCY**

**STAFF NAME**

**ACTION**
**CODE**

**DATE**
**YY/MM/DD**

**TYPE**
**RESP**

**COMPLETED**
**DYY/MM/DD**

**REFERRAL NOTE:**

FREDERICK MCCLURE

ORG 91/04/04 Fm R910405 TC

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**COMMENTS:**

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**ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS:**

**MEDIA: L**

**INDIVIDUAL CODES:** 1230 ___ ___

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**MAIL USER CODES:** (A) _______ (B) _______ (C) _______

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**ACTION CODES:** *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION*

**DISPOSITION:** *A-ANSWERED*

**OUTGOING:** *A-DRAFT RESPONSE*

**TYPE RESP=INITIALS**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL*

**CODE = A**

**COMPLETED = DATE OF**

**OUTGOING**

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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.
April 5, 1991

Dear Congressman Bilbray:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President regarding the treatment of the Kurdish people as a result of illegal helicopter attacks by the Iraqi army.

We appreciate being apprised of your interest in the enforcement of the U.N. resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire in Iraq. Please know that I have shared your comments with President Bush. Additionally, I have taken the liberty of providing your remarks to the President's national security and foreign policy advisors so that they, too, are aware of your recommendations.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM: TSB:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for Direct Response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - FYI
George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

It is with a great sense of worry and anxiety that I write you concerning the plight of the Kurdish people in Iraq.

Today, I met with members of the Kurdish Leadership here in Washington. They speak of a quarter of a million men, women, and children, not soldiers, but simple citizens, with their backs literally up against the wall. One side they have an impassable Turkish border, on the other the Iraqi army. The Iraqi-Kurdish people have been trapped at the Turkish border with shelter for 10,000, food for 100,000 and the Iraqi army systematically exterminating them.

These people answered your call Mr. President. They stood up for democracy and freedom in Iraq, and now they have been forgotten. They refer to their fighters as the peshmarga, those who face death. Death is what they now face. The delegates tell me that these brave soldiers could prove a challenge to Saddaam Hussein's forces, however they have been slowed down because of concern over their families.

Saddaam is not trying to beat an army, he is committing genocide. The kurds have been forced to retreat with their families for fear of what will happen to them. I am told that he is literally destroying whole city populations in his march towards the north. All of us were outraged with the reports of Saddaam's use of chemical weapons upon the Kurds several years ago. The killing power and destruction that Saddaam has unleashed upon these people is beyond comprehension.

Much of the damage is due to the illegal use of helicopters by the Iraqi army. Saddaam has blatantly broken cease fire orders by utilizing his helicopters to actively attack the rebels in all parts of the country. The Kurdish leaders believe that their fighters could truly stand up to the Iraqis if the helicopter's are removed from Iraqi use. I ask you to use the power of the United Nations and the assembled allied forces to enforce these regulations upon Iraq.

Many feel that because of Kurdistan's traditional claims to wide area, any interference on behalf of the Kurds would anger some of the very allies we worked so long at cultivating. This
is not the case. Both President Ozal and President Mitterrand have expressed a desire to help the Kurdish people. France is currently proposing a resolution before the U.N. to aid the Kurds. I urge you to look at this resolution and place the United States in the forefront of carrying forth with the New World Order.

Many have heralded the resolution of this conflict as the start of the New World Order. The nations of this world have came together and stopped Saddaam Hussein. This unity has proven the power of the United Nations and that we will not stand for unjustified aggression throughout the world. Let us not stop when we are so close. The Kurds are simply asking to answer the call and bring freedom and democracy to Iraq, so that it to can participate in the new community of nations.

Mr. President, I ask that you not turn your back on the Kurdish people. Anyone who tells you that there is no desire to save them is sorely mistaken. Anyone call tell what is right and what is wrong. The slaughter of women and children is wrong. The genocide of a people is wrong. What Saddaam Hussein is doing is deadly wrong.

As Congress returns, I will continue my efforts to help the Kurdish people. However, the time is short. Many thousands have died, many more will. I urge you act now Mr. President and save the democratic order that we have strived so carefully to create. Mr. President, do not allow Saddaam Hussein to slaughter the Kurdish people and destroy all that our brave men and women fought to preserve.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James H. Bilbray
Member of Congress
THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 04, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JAMES H. BILBRAY

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT NOT TO TURN HIS BACK ON
THE PLAGUE OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE IN IRAQ

ROUTE TO: FREDERICK MCCLURE
OFFICE/AGENCY NSC SIM
(STAFF NAME) 99005

ACTION ACT DATE TYPE C COMPLETED
CODE YY/MM/DD RESP D YY/MM/DD

ORG 91/04/04 FM A 91/05/25 TC

REFERRAL NOTE: 

91/04/01 BS A 91/05/14 LC

REFERRAL NOTE: 

91/04/15 C . . . . TC

COMMENTS: 

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230

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.
Dear Congressman Bilbray:

Thank you for your letter to the President of April 3, 1991 about the situation inside Iraq. We share your concern about the Iraqi government's brutal use of force and repression against its political opponents, particularly against Kurdish and other innocent civilians.

Our decision to shoot down Iraqi fixed-wing aircraft was taken as a military precaution to protect coalition forces operating inside Iraq. Shooting down Iraqi helicopters might have marginally impeded Iraqi government operations to quash the rebellion, but would not have changed the ultimate outcome. Further military intervention by the coalition to support Iraq's political opposition would have risked embroiling us in either a protracted civil war or the long term political administration of Iraq until a successor government could be chosen. This clearly was never an objective of the coalition. We still believe that the Iraqi people would be better off under new leadership, and that this can best be achieved by keeping pressure on Iraq through the continued imposition of sanctions.

In the near term, we are addressing urgently the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi refugees. As you may know, the President decided to initiate the largest U.S. relief effort in modern military history. The United States also has taken the lead in the international effort to assist the Kurds and other Iraqi refugees and displaced persons. With the construction of several temporary encampments in northern Iraq where relief supplies will be made available in large quantities and distributed in an orderly way, we will be able to provide massive relief assistance to the Kurdish refugees.

To deter Iraqi military interference in these relief operations, security will be provided by U.S., British, French and other friendly air and ground forces to give the refugees the confidence to return home to Iraq. It is our hope that the responsibility for operating these facilities can be handed over in the very near future to the United Nations and international relief organizations.

Thank you for your interest in this matter of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
April 24, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: SANDRA CHARLES

SUBJECT: Response to Congressman Bilbray on Iraq

Attached at Tab I is a response to Congressman Bilbray's letter to the President on the situation inside Iraq (Tab II).

Ginny Langley concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Congressman Bilbray at Tab I.

Attachments
Tab I Response to Congressman Bilbray
Tab II Letter from Congressman Bilbray
TO:  BILBRAY, JAMES H

FROM:  SCOWCROFT

KEYWORDS:  IRAQ

PERSONS:

SUBJECT:  RESPONSE TO REP BILBRAY ON IRAQ

ACTION:  SCOWCROFT SGD LTR

STAFF OFFICER:  HAASS

FILES:  WH

DUE DATE:  16 APR 91

STATUS:  C

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

CHARLES

NSC CHRON

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY  [Signature]  DATE  04/16  BY HAND  W/ATTACH

OPENED BY:  NSRCB  CLOSED BY:  NSAMM

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TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: BILBRAY, JAMES H

KEYWORDS: IRAQ

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR URGES PRES NOT TO TURN HIS BACK ON PLIGHT OF KURDISH PEOPLE IN IRAQ

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT DUE DATE: 16 APR 91 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

FILES: WH NSCP: CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION HAASS
FOR CONCURRENCE CHARLES LAMPLEY
FOR INFO GATES HAYDEN ROSTOW SCOWCROFT WELCH

COMMENTS:

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OPENED BY: NSRCB CLOSED BY: DOG 1 OF 1

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

**cc:** VP Sununu Other

Should be seen by: ____________ (Date/Time)
April 5, 1991

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for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - FYI
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President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500  

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Saddam is not trying to beat an army, he is committing genocide. The Kurds have been forced to retreat with their families for fear of what will happen to them. I am told that he is literally destroying whole city populations in his march towards the north. All of us were outraged with the reports of Saddam's use of chemical weapons upon the Kurds several years ago. The killing power and destruction that Saddam has unleashed upon these people is beyond comprehension.

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Member of Congress