INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 05, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ALBERT GORE JR.

SUBJECT: OFFERS SUGGESTIONS TO HELP THE PRESIDENT DEAL WITH THE INSURRECTION IN IRAQ AND THE KURDISH AND SHIITE SITUATION

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REFERRAL NOTE:

COMMENTS: INCOMING REC'D FROM HENRY PLASTER, APR 4 91, FOR TRACKING

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210

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

*ACTION CODES: DISPOSITION OUTGOING
*APPROPRIATE ACTION ANSWERED
*C-COMMENT/RECOM NON-SPEC-REFERRAL
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE COMPLETED
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET SUSPENDED
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC
*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.
TO: GORE JR, ALBERT

FROM: SCOWCROFT

KEYWORDS: IRAQ UN PERSIAN GULF CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GORE LTR

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTR DUE DATE: 22 APR 91 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

FILES: WH NSCP:

LOGREF:

CODES:

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FOR ACTION FOR CONCURRENCE FOR INFO CHARLES HAASS LAMPLEY NSC CHRON

COMMENTS:

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OPENED BY: NSRCB CLOSED BY: NSRCB

DOC 3 OF 3

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TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: GORE JR, ALBERT

KEYWORDS: IRAQ
UN

PERSIAN GULF
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE INSURRECTION IN IRAQ

ACTION: 

DUE DATE: 22 APR 91
STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

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FOR ACTION
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UNCLASSIFIED
Dear Senator Gore:

Thank you for your letter to the President of April 3, 1991 about the situation inside Iraq, and for your kind words on the UN ceasefire resolution. We share your concern about the Iraqi government’s brutal use of force against its political opponents, particularly the 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 risked embroiling us either in a protracted civil war or in long-term political administration of Iraq until a successor government could be chosen. This clearly was never an objective of the coalition. We do agree, however, that the Iraqi people would be better off under new leadership, and that this can best be achieved by keeping the pressure on the Iraqi government through the stringent imposition of sanctions.

The international relief effort assembled under the mandate of UNSC resolution 688 has successfully attended to the humanitarian and security needs of 500,000 Kurds who fled Iraqi brutality. Operation Provide Comfort, the largest U.S. relief effort mounted in modern military history, has included a commitment of over $200 million for these refugees and the deployment of nearly 12,000 U.S. military personnel to carry out the operation in conjunction with our coalition partners. The success of a major objective of this operation was realized this month when the last refugee camp in Turkey was vacated as the refugees voluntarily returned home.

These relief operations will soon be turned over to the United Nations and other international relief organizations who will assure the continued delivery of assistance to and the security of the Kurds who have now returned home from Turkey. The Administration will continue to provide material assistance through the UN. To deter Iraqi military action against these operations following coalition troop withdrawals, we intend to convey a strong warning to Iraq about the consequences of
interfering in these operations and violating the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded in April by the Iraqi government and the UN Secretary General's Executive Delegate.

Thank you again for writing on this matter of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
April 25, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: SANDRA CHARLES

SUBJECT: Response to Senator Gore on Iraq

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

Ginny Lamp concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Senator Gore at Tab I.

Attachments
Tab I Response to Senator Gore
Tab II Letter from Senator Gore
April 9, 1991

Dear Al:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President regarding the insurrection in Iraq.

We appreciate being apprised of your plan which would assist the Kurdish people in Iraq through the U.N. Security Council and strict enforcement of the cease-fire. 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 suggestions.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FDM:TSB:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for Direct Response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - FYI
United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 1991

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Let me begin by congratulating you on the terms of the U.N. cease-fire resolution. It's tough and it represents a precedent of historical proportions for the United Nations and for the idea of collective security. Having said this, however, I want to urge you to change the course of American policy for dealing with the insurrection and its aftermath in Iraq. Our policy in the Gulf should not be mortgaged to the success of tyranny in Iraq, but we are coming painfully close to that position. Of course, if I thought there were no alternative but to become deeply engaged in Iraq's internal struggle and to protract our military stay in the region, I would support your approach. In my opinion, however, there are certain things we should do not only because they are right, but especially because they are also feasible.

Specifically:

1. We should enforce the cease-fire strictly. Permission to fly Iraqi helicopters was not granted for the purpose of suppressing a rebellion; it was granted explicitly for administrative necessity. Now that we understand Iraq's real intent, we should stop this abuse. Many lives can still be saved if Iraq is forbidden to use these powerful weapons against people completely unable to defend themselves.

2. We should support the French effort to focus the Security Council on the plight of Iraq's Kurdish and Shi'ite population, and we should also mobilize support to provide aid to refugees. I hope and trust also that the coalition already recognizes a responsibility not to forcibly repatriate any refugees who have fled into the portion of Iraq we now control.

3. In the longer term, we should be using such leverage as we have to advance the day not just when Saddam Hussein is out of power, but when there exists in Iraq a government that grants reasonable consideration to all its peoples and which no longer rules by terror. Until that time, I would hope it would be your explicit policy to inform Iraq that the US will be adamant about imposing sanctions in a very severe manner.
I believe that the approach outlined above would not impede our planned drawdown of forces in the region. On the contrary, it might well be part of the insurance that we want against ever having to bring them back again. Above all, it would keep our policy and our principles in alignment. You asked the country to accept that Iraq’s conquest of Kuwait was not just an intra-Arab affair but a matter of global consequence. Saddam Hussein’s external behavior is of a piece with the internal character of his regime. As you would not have the world repeat the mistake that was made at Munich, I ask you to change your policy so that we do not replicate other situations in which Great Powers ignored the fate of peoples who rose up for their freedom, especially at a juncture when we have immense leverage to influence the outcome.

Sincerely,

Albert Gore, Jr.
United States Senator
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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)

COMMENTS

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**cc:** VP Sununu Other

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**COMMENTS**

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