

JK

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

0072

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 08, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE CARL LEVIN

SUBJECT: URGES HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR THE KURDS IN
IRAQ WHO ARE FACING IMMEDIATE STARVATION,
FREEZING AND DEATH

| ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME) | ACTION | | DISPOSITION | |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| | | ACT CODE | DATE YY/MM/DD | TYPE RESP | C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD |
| FREDERICK MCCLURE | | ORG | 91/04/08 | Fm | A91/04/09 LJ |
| 99 DOS | REFERRAL NOTE: | R | 91/04/16 | LJ | / / |
| NSC Staff | REFERRAL NOTE: | I | 91/04/15 | LJ e | / / |
| 99 AD | REFERRAL NOTE: | I | 91/04/16 | LJ e | / / |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: | | / / | | / / |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | |

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210 _____
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.

April 9, 1991

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President regarding the plight of the Kurdish civilians of Iraq.

We appreciate being apprised of your support for American humanitarian relief for the besieged Kurdish refugees. Please know that I have shared your comments with 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 Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FDM:JHH:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - for direct response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - FYI
bcc: w/ copy of inc to AID - FYI

Enclosure

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 5, 1991

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

Dear Mr. President:

The United States, the United Nations coalition against Iraq and all of humanity confront a profound challenge. We and the other nations of the coalition bear a moral responsibility to act immediately to meet the desperate needs of the hundreds of thousands of Kurds that face immediate starvation, freezing, and death.

I am urgently calling for humanitarian relief to innocent civilians seeking to escape the slaughter and who are freezing and starving before our eyes and underneath our overflying aircraft. Such humanitarian relief does not constitute military intervention in a civil war.

I urge you to direct an immediate airlift of blankets, tents, food and medical supplies. Those supplies should be delivered both north and south of the Iraq border.

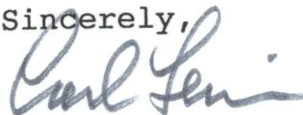
It is not sufficient to supply relief to those Kurds lucky enough to reach Turkey or Iran, as important as that is. Nor is it enough to simply urge Turkey to open its borders to those who reach it, although that diplomatic effort to persuade Turkey is vital and should continue. It is the uncountable hundreds of thousands of Kurds who are freezing and starving while struggling to escape Iraq who are at the greatest risk.

We must act -- and act now before more Kurds perish. We have the supplies available. We have the airlift capability available within hundreds of air miles of the Kurds.

The United States and our coalition partners should make it clear to the Iraqi forces of Saddam Hussein that we will allow no interference with these relief efforts. In unmistakably clear terms, Saddam Hussein should know that we will take necessary action to assure the delivery of these materials to the Kurds.

While these humanitarian aid efforts are underway, we should seek a United Nations ultimatum to Saddam Hussein to stop the slaughter of civilians. Such an ultimatum, backed by the threat of force and continued sanctions if Iraq doesn't stop the slaughter, would not constitute U.N. intervention in a civil war. Rather, such an ultimatum would be part of an ongoing struggle against a regime the U.N. is still at war with and with whom it has no cease fire agreement.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin

JK

ID# 226828

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0072

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 08, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE CARL LEVIN

SUBJECT: URGES HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR THE KURDS IN
IRAQ WHO ARE FACING IMMEDIATE STARVATION,
FREEZING AND DEATH

| ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME) | ACTION | | DISPOSITION | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | | ACT CODE | DATE YY/MM/DD | TYPE RESP | C D | COMPLETED YY/MM/DD |
| FREDERICK MCCLURE | | ORG | 91/04/08 | Fm | A91/04/09 | LJ |
| 99 DOS | REFERRAL NOTE: | R | 91/04/16 | LJ | A91/04/20 | C |
| NSC Staff | REFERRAL NOTE: | I | 91/04/15 | LJ | C | 1/1 |
| 99 AID | REFERRAL NOTE: | I | 91/04/16 | LJ | C | 1/1 |
| LAmcc | REFERRAL NOTE: | CA | 91/07/08 | C | 91/07/08 | TC |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: | FYE - File from DOS | | | | |

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210 _____
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.

April 9, 1991

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President regarding the plight of the Kurdish civilians of Iraq.

We appreciate being apprised of your support for American humanitarian relief for the besieged Kurdish refugees. Please know that I have shared your comments with 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 Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FDM:JHH:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - for direct response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - FYI
bcc: w/ copy of inc to AID - FYI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9106691

Date July 2, 1991

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: The Honorable Carl Levin

Date: 4/5/91

Subject: Urges humanitarian relief for the Kurds in Iraq
who are facing immediate starvation, freezing and death.

WH Referral Dated: 4/16/91

NSCS ID# (if any): 226828

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:

for Soadia Saadiah
Director
Secretariat Staff



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUN 28 1991

Dear Senator Levin:

President Bush has asked me to respond to your letter of April 5, 1991 regarding your concern for the plight of Iraqi refugees/displaced civilians fleeing to other areas of Iraq and neighboring countries in the wake of Saddam Hussein's brutality

The U.S. Government, in coordination with other governments and international organizations, has been actively involved in providing assistance to these refugees and displaced persons. Our immediate objective to provide life-sustaining assistance to the Iraqis on the Turkish border has been accomplished. The long-term objectives of assisting the Iraqis to return home voluntarily and turning the operation over to the United Nations are well-advanced.

Operation Provide Comfort, the relief effort mounted for the Iraqis in Turkey and Iraqis massed at the Turkish/Iraqi border, is the largest U.S. relief effort mounted in modern military history. Assistance provisions include: food, potable water, shelter, and medical care for the refugees/displaced persons.

As of June 1, over thirty countries were reported to have contributed more than \$714 million in grants and relief supplies to the international humanitarian effort for Iraqi refugees and displaced persons. The U.S. Government has made by far the largest contribution to this effort; funds expended exceed \$212 million dollars. President Bush has authorized the use of \$140 million for humanitarian relief operations for Iraqi refugees from Department of Defense assets. The Agency for International Development's Food for Peace program has now contributed over 41,000 metric tons of rice, vegetable oil, and wheat flour valued at approximately \$31.6 million for the relief effort. President Bush recently approved another \$10 million from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) funds for relief assistance to Iraqi refugees in Iran and Turkey for a total contribution of \$23 million from the Bureau for Refugee Programs at the State Department.

The Honorable
Carl Levin,
United States Senate.

Additionally, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance at the Agency for International Development has contributed nearly \$12.5 million.

We hope the day will soon arrive when all Iraqi displaced persons and refugees can return to their homes to live in peace and free from repression. Until then, together with the international community, the U.S. Government will continue all relief efforts in the region.

Sincerely,



Janet G. Mullins
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

9106691

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

REFERRAL

APRIL 16, 1991

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

REMARKS: ALSO REFERRED TO AID

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 226828

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 5, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: THE HONORABLE CARL LEVIN
UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON DC 20510

SUBJECT: URGES HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR THE KURDS IN
IRAQ WHO ARE FACING IMMEDIATE STARVATION,
FREEZING AND DEATH

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

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 5, 1991

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

Dear Mr. President:

The United States, the United Nations coalition against Iraq and all of humanity confront a profound challenge. We and the other nations of the coalition bear a moral responsibility to act immediately to meet the desperate needs of the hundreds of thousands of Kurds that face immediate starvation, freezing, and death.

I am urgently calling for humanitarian relief to innocent civilians seeking to escape the slaughter and who are freezing and starving before our eyes and underneath our overflying aircraft. Such humanitarian relief does not constitute military intervention in a civil war.

I urge you to direct an immediate airlift of blankets, tents, food and medical supplies. Those supplies should be delivered both north and south of the Iraq border.

It is not sufficient to supply relief to those Kurds lucky enough to reach Turkey or Iran, as important as that is. Nor is it enough to simply urge Turkey to open its borders to those who reach it, although that diplomatic effort to persuade Turkey is vital and should continue. It is the uncountable hundreds of thousands of Kurds who are freezing and starving while struggling to escape Iraq who are at the greatest risk.

We must act -- and act now before more Kurds perish. We have the supplies available. We have the airlift capability available within hundreds of air miles of the Kurds.

The United States and our coalition partners should make it clear to the Iraqi forces of Saddam Hussein that we will allow no interference with these relief efforts. In unmistakably clear terms, Saddam Hussein should know that we will take necessary action to assure the delivery of these materials to the Kurds.

While these humanitarian aid efforts are underway, we should seek a United Nations ultimatum to Saddam Hussein to stop the slaughter of civilians. Such an ultimatum, backed by the threat of force and continued sanctions if Iraq doesn't stop the slaughter, would not constitute U.N. intervention in a civil war. Rather, such an ultimatum would be part of an ongoing struggle against a regime the U.N. is still at war with and with whom it has no cease fire agreement.

Sincerely,


Carl Levin