INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 12, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE CHARLES J. COLGAN

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO FINISH THE JOB IN IRAQ AND NOT DESERT THE PEOPLE THERE

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<th>ROUTE TO:</th>
<th>ACT CODE</th>
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<td>MARY MCCLURE</td>
<td>ORG</td>
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REFERRAL NOTE:

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200

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

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ACTION CODES:
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE
*X-INTERIM REPLY

FILE CODE: 25

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 Senator Colgan:

On behalf of the President, thank you for your recent correspondence expressing your views on coalition efforts to liberate Kuwait and your suggestions regarding assistance for Kurdish refugees.

President Bush shares the deep concern and the anguish of all Americans over the brutal use of force and of repression by the government of Iraq against Kurdish and other Iraqi civilians. The President has made clear that, "We want the suffering of those refugees to stop, and in keeping with our nation's compassion and concern, we are massively helping." At the President's direction, the United States initiated what soon became the largest U.S. relief effort mounted in modern military history. While this effort is unprecedented, the scale of the problem is even greater.

Thus, after consulting with our European partners and the United Nations Secretary General, President Bush announced a greatly expanded relief effort, ordering the U.S. military to establish several temporary encampments in northern Iraq where relief supplies for refugees will be made available in large quantities and distributed in an orderly way. It also provides for adequate security for the Kurds by U.S., British, and French air and ground forces. It is our hope that the responsibility for operating these facilities can be handed over to the United Nations and to international relief organizations. I am enclosing material about the Administration's relief efforts that I hope you will find informative.

As you know, the immediate goal of the international coalition -- the liberation of Kuwait -- has been achieved. The UN resolutions that led to the coalition troops expelling Iraqi forces from Kuwait do not authorize intervention in Iraq's political infighting. The President believes that Saddam Hussein's leadership has been a tragedy for the Iraqi people and that they, along with all the people of the region, would be better off under new Iraqi leadership. However, he has also determined that the best interests of the United States would not be served by intervening militarily in a protracted civil war stemming from long-standing enmity between Iraqi factions.
Just as the United States and our coalition partners are committed to providing humanitarian assistance to those suffering in the region, we also are committed to restoring stability to the Gulf region. In recently passing Resolution 687, the United Nations Security Council took the unprecedented steps of creating a force to monitor the legal border between Iraq and Kuwait and of providing a UN guarantee of that border. Once this observer force arrives, remaining coalition forces would be withdrawn from Iraqi territory. The resolution establishes a fund that would be set aside from Iraqi oil revenues to compensate Kuwait and others for damages; it also includes provisions that are designed to ensure that Iraq cannot rebuild its military to threaten anew the peace of the region, and it mandates that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction must be destroyed.

The Administration will continue to monitor carefully the situation in Iraq and to serve as a catalyst for stability in the region. The President appreciates your suggestions and the interest that prompted you to write.

Sincerely,

Mary McClure
Special Assistant to the President
for Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan
State Senator
P.O. Box 1650
Manassas, VA 22110
April 11, 1991

Dear Mr. President:

Although it is not a matter of your political party, I support most of your positions, however, Mr. President you quit too soon - the job in Iraq was not finished when you quit. To say we will not interfere with Iraq's internal affairs is folly - we clearly have.

Feed the people we desolate. Help the Children, it is the least we can do.

Sincerely,

[Signature]