THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 16, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE TED WEISS

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO RESOLVE TO EQUAL DETERMINATION TO RESPOND TO THE PLIGHT OF THE IRAQI VICTIMS OF SADDAM HUSSEIN'S BRUTALITY

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FREDERICK MCCLURE

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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: I INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230

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

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* * *CORRESPONDENCE:
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS
*C-COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION *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, OE0B) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1991

Dear Congressman Weiss:

Thank you for your letter to the President of April 12, 1991 about the situation inside Iraq. We share your concern about the Iraqi Government’s brutal use of force against its political opponents and innocent Iraqi civilians.

We considered the course of action you proposed. We believe that shooting down Iraqi helicopters would have had marginal effect on the ultimate outcome of the rebellion. In addition, direct military intervention by the coalition in support of Iraq’s political opposition would have risked embroiling us in either a protracted civil war or the long term political administration of Iraq. Neither was an objective of the coalition; nor would they have been in the U.S. national interest. 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.

As you know, we are urgently responding to the grave humanitarian tragedy that Iraq’s repression has created. The President has directed the initiation of the most massive 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 temporary encampments in northern Iraq where relief supplies for refugees will be made available in large quantities and distributed in an orderly way, we will be able to provide massive relief assistance. This is being accomplished with the help of the Turkish government and our other allies.

To deter Iraqi military intervention against these operations, security is being provided by U.S., British, French and other friendly air and ground forces to give the Kurdish refugees the confidence to return to Iraq. This process has already begun. It is our hope that the responsibility for these facilities will be assumed by the United Nations and international relief organizations as soon as it is operationally feasible.

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

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Ted Weiss
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515
May 7, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: SANDRA CHARLES

SUBJECT: Response to Congressman Weiss on Iraq

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

Ginny Lamm concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Attachments
Tab I Response to Congressman Weiss
Tab II Letter from Congressman Weiss
TO: WEISS, TED S

FROM: SCOWCROFT

KEYWORDS: IRAQ CO

PERSONS: HUSSEIN, SADDAM

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REP WEISS ON IRAQ

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTR DUE DATE: 30 APR 91 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

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TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: WEISS, TED S

KEYWORDS: IRAQ REFUGEES CO

PERSONS: HUSSEIN, SADDAM

SUBJECT: LTR RE US POLICY TWD IRAQ & CURRENT REFUGEE SITUATION

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT DUE DATE: 30 APR 91 STATUS: S
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### National Security Council
The White House

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### COMMENTS

### DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:
April 17, 1991

Dear Congressman Weiss:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President regarding U.S. policy toward Iraq and the current refugee situation.

We appreciate being advised of your perspective in this important matter. In an effort to be of assistance, I have forwarded your comments to the President's national security and foreign policy advisors for their careful review.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Ted Weiss
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:JHH:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for direct response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - FYI
April 12, 1991

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my deep concerns about U.S. policy regarding the internal conflict in Iraq. The U.S. response to the plight of the Kurds and other Iraqi refugees has been wholly inadequate.

There are now over one million Kurdish refugees on the border of Iran and more than 300,000 along the Turkish border. These refugees, who have fled Saddam Hussein's merciless brutality, are in desperate need of food and medical supplies.

But the Kurds need more than food and medicine. They need an explanation of why the United States turned its back on their struggle and allowed Saddam Hussein to crush their rebellion. The American people also need an explanation of this indefensible policy.

After first urging the Iraqi people to rise up and rid their country of Saddam Hussein, the United States then stood by while he shattered their opposition movement. After comparing Saddam Hussein to Adolf Hitler, we quietly allowed him to silence his internal opposition with helicopter gunships. And now, after proclaiming our solidarity with the Iraqi people against Saddam Hussein, we are dragging our feet as hundreds of thousands of traumatized refugees crowd the borders of Turkey and Iran.

Mr. President, the humanitarian tragedy which worsens each day on the borders of Iraq requires an immediate and massive response from the United States. This response must come in two forms. We must first ensure that the people of Iraq are protected from Saddam Hussein's brutal mistreatment. The Kurds must know that there are safe havens within Iraq where they can be secure and unmolested.
At the same time we must undertake a massive emergency assistance program to support the Kurds. Only a concerted effort by the United States and the entire international community can save these refugees from starvation and disease.

Mr. President, the United States showed clear resolve in its military campaign against Saddam Hussein. Now we must translate that resolve into an equal determination to respond to the plight of the Iraqi victims of Saddam Hussein's brutality.

Sincerely,

TED WEISS
Member of Congress
**THE WHITE HOUSE**
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Sincerely,

TED WEISS
Member of Congress
Henry:

I believe this is an exact duplicate of Cong. Weiss' letter. That went over to you the other day.

If not, return to me for tracking.

Jan. RM 58
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President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

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