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Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)
Series: Subject File - General
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WHORM Category Code: CO072
WHORM Category Name: Iraq, Republic of

Document Number: 230236 to 233379 **Entire Category Processed**
Alpha File Name:

COO72

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 17, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. IAN MARTIN

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING THE FATE OF THE
THOUSANDS OF IRAQI CIVILIAN REFUGEES IN
SOUTHERN IRAQ

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
DEPARTMENT OF STATE	RAP ORG	91/04/17	TC	A91105/30 TC
REFERRAL NOTE:				

REMARKS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:F INDIVIDUAL CODES: 3500
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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ACTION CODES:      *DISPOSITION                *OUTGOING          *
                   *                               *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED                    *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
-COMMENT/RECOM      *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *           OF SIGNER *
-DRAFT RESPONSE     *C-COMPLETED                      *           CODE = A   *
-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED                    *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                               *           OUTGOING  *
-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                               *                               *
-FOR-SIGNATURE      *                               *                               *
-INTERIM REPLY      *                               *                               *
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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.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9107013

Date June 13, 1991

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: Mr. Ian Martin

Date: April 15, 1991

Subject: Expresses concern regarding the fate of the
thousands of Iraq civilian refugees in Southern
Iraq.

WH Referral Dated: 4/19/91

NCS ID# (if any): 230236

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 G. Douglas

Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 30, 1991

Mr. Ian Martin
Secretary General
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 8DJ England

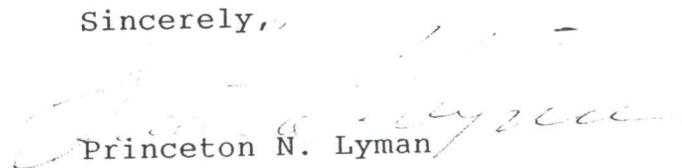
Dear Mr. Martin:

I have been asked by President Bush to respond to your letter of April 15, 1991. The U.S. Government shares your concern for the plight of Iraqi displaced persons located in Southern Iraq occupied by military forces.

The U.S. withdrew from the demilitarized (DMZ) zone on May 8. Steps were taken to insure the well-being of these displaced persons. Over 19,000 individuals were relocated to Rafha camp in Saudi Arabia, and 2,118 were moved to Iran. The United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) is providing a presence in Southern Iraq for those individuals who choose to remain in the DMZ. Through UNIKOM, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with assistance from the International Committee for the Red Cross, remains committed to providing the necessary protection for displaced civilians at the border.

I assure you that the international community and the U.S., in particular, have not forgotten this group. Efforts on their behalf will continue.

Sincerely,


Princeton N. Lyman
Director
Bureau for Refugee Programs

9107013

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 19, 1991

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 230236

MEDIA: FAX DATED APRIL 15, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. IAN MARTIN
SECRETARY GENERAL
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
1 EASTON STREET
LONDON WC1X 0DD ENGLAND

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING THE FATE OF THE
THOUSANDS OF IRAQI CIVILIAN REFUGEES IN
SOUTHERN IRAQ

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL. -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7480. *George Van Arman - tell Ten - Doc - should by Pres or someone else...*

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



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT,
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ,
United Kingdom.

230236

DOS

Fax: 071-956 1157

Tel: 071-413 5500

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: The Honorable George Bush, President of the United States

FROM: Ian Martin, Secretary General

DATE: 15 April 1991

DESTINATION FAX NO.: 0101 202 456 2461

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 2

If you do not receive all of the pages, or they are not fully legible,
please call us as soon as possible on 011 4471 413 5500.

COMMENTS/MESSAGES

Dear Mr President,

Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the fate of thousands of Iraqi civilian refugees currently in the United States-occupied area of southern Iraq, in light of the imminent withdrawal of US-led coalition forces from the area. Amnesty International strongly fears that the refugee population will be at certain risk of torture, "disappearance" or execution if they are returned to Iraqi Government control. These fears are compounded by numerous and credible reports received by Amnesty International in the past two to three weeks of mass summary executions of unarmed civilians, suspected government opponents and their alleged supporters in Iraq. Amnesty International has also received reports in the past two days indicating that refugees who have returned to Iraq in order to benefit from the official amnesty announced on 5 April are being arbitrarily detained, executed or subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including deprivation of food and water.

Amnesty International believes that the United States Government has obligations towards the Iraqi civilian population which is present in the US-occupied zone of Iraq, and must ensure that protection is not denied to

☎ (44)(71) 413 5500 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 FAX: 956 1157

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters throughout the world. It has formal relations with the United Nations, Unesco, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.

those persons who risk serious human rights violations by the Iraqi authorities.

In view of the above and of the recent conclusion of the cease-fire agreement, Amnesty International calls on the United States Government to take steps to guarantee continuing effective and durable protection for the Iraqi civilian population currently under its control against human rights abuses by Iraqi Government forces. We are also taking the opportunity of reminding the governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia of their obligations under international law to abide by the principles of non-refoulement, which includes non-rejection of asylum-seekers at the frontier with Iraq. In this context, anything that your government could do to further this aim would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Martin
Secretary General