DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 24, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JALAL TALABANI

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF AMERICAN FORCES TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PROTECTION OF REFUGEES IN IRAQI KURDISTAN; OFFERS SUGGESTIONS TO GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REFERRAL NOTE: _____________________________________________

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COMMENTS: SEE ID 221706

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:F INDIVIDUAL CODES: 3500 4400

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

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* ACTION CODES: * DISPOSITION * OUTGOING *
* A-APPROPRIATE ACTION * A-ANSWERED * CORRESPONDENCE: *
* A-COMMENT/RECOM * B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
* D-DRAFT RESPONSE * C-COMPLETED * OF SIGNER *
* F-FURNISH FACT SHEET * S-SUSPENDED * CODE = A *
* I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* * COMPLETED = DATE OF *
* R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * OUTGOING *
* S-FOR-SIGNATURE * *
* X-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.
FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann  
Executive Secretary  
National Security Council Staff  
The White House  

REFERENCE: 
To: President Bush  
From: Mr. Jalal Talabani  
Date: April 18, 1991  
Subject: Support for the use of American forces to provide humanitarian relief and protection to refugees in Iraq Kurdistan; offers suggestions to guarantee their safety  

WH Referral Dated: April 26, 1991  
NSCS ID# (if any): 232384  

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: The Department has met with Talabani's representatives twice and will do so again on 04/30. His concerns are being addressed in these meetings.  

Director  
Secretariat Staff  

UNCLASSIFIED
TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 232384

MEDIA: FAX DATED APRIL 18, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. JALAL TALABANI
IRAQI KURDISTAN FRONT
PRESIDENT BUSH

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF AMERICAN FORCES TO
PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PROTECTION
TO REFUGEES IN IRAQI KURDISTAN; OFFERS
SUGGESTIONS TO GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY

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
Iraqi Kurdistan Front

BM Box 5776
London WCIN 3XX

Our ref. J/PH /IKF/40
Your ref:

President George Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC, USA.

18 April 1991

Dear Mr President,

I wish sincerely to thank you on behalf of the Kurdish people for your action in ordering the use of American forces to provide humanitarian relief and protection to refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan. This action will undoubtedly help save the lives of many thousands of our people.

The proposed "safe havens" on the Turkish border are an important first step in helping to provide humanitarian aid and in protecting our people from the continuing threat of genocide being waged by Saddam Hussein. In this respect, I hope you will agree with me that an urgent priority must be the establishment of a similar protection zone on the borders with Iran, where large numbers of Kurdish refugees are concentrated in great peril and in appalling conditions.

As has been, almost universally, stressed, the overriding need is to enable the Kurdish people to return to their homes in safety under the protection of the United Nations. This is the only feasible solution which will meet both the vast humanitarian needs of millions of innocent Kurdish men, women and children, even in the short-term, and also provide a solution that will protect their right to safety, peace and security. It would be a terrible irony if the "safe havens", however well motivated their establishment, were to become a means by which Saddam Hussein was enabled to achieve the objective of his war of genocide, which is to depopulate Kurdistan. Kurdish people must be enabled to leave their compounds on the borders of their own lands and to return home.

This will only be made possible if there are international guarantees for their safety. I suggest the following course of action to create a viable legal and political framework to achieve this objective:

1. The Proclamation by the Security Council of a temporary United Nations protection zone in Iraqi Kurdistan. U.N. observers to be sent to the area to monitor the absence of the apparatus of Iraqi military repression and to organise the return of the refugees and the continuation of the humanitarian relief operations for as long as necessary in the area. The Proclamation expressly to state that none of the U.N. operations affect Iraq's territorial integrity.

2. The U.N. immediately to initiate discussions leading to an internationally guaranteed regime of autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan, this regime to acknowledge the territorial integrity of Iraq, but to be based on an International Statute to provide for the protection of the human and collective rights of the Kurdish people.

3. United Nations observers to be put in place throughout Iraqi Kurdistan as part of the U.N. Supervisory machinery to incorporate the right to petition to a body of independent experts reporting directly to the U.N. Security Council. The U.N. would itself be a party to the International Statute. The
I believe that these proposals are realistic and workable. Iraq and other U.N. members would welcome the reaffirmation of Iraq's territorial integrity and U.N. involvement would be of a sufficiently high level to provide both short and long-term protection for the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

I believe that it is imperative to move quickly beyond the "safe havens" and to enable both the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and the international forces to return home in safety as soon as possible. May I also re-affirm the readiness of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front to co-operate, in every way possible, with the international community in the humanitarian relief effort and in proposals to bring peace and security to the area.

I again thank you on behalf of the people of Iraqi Kurdistan. I urge you to seriously consider these detailed proposals, which I believe are the best hope for humanitarian relief, and for the peace and security of the refugees, Iraq and the region as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

Jalal Talabani
[for the Iraqi Kurdistan Front]
THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 24, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JALAL TALABANI

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF AMERICAN FORCES TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PROTECTION OF REFUGEES IN IRAQI KURDISTAN; OFFERS SUGGESTIONS TO GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY

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COMMENTS: SEE ID 221706

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:F INDIVIDUAL CODES: 3500 4400

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

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ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *CORRESPONDENCE: * TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
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TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 232384

MEDIA: FAX DATED APRIL 18, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. JAIAL TALABANG
IRAQI KURDISTAN FRONT
16 FOX 5576
LONDON W1N 5XX ENGLAND

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF AMERICAN FORCES TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND PROTECTION TO REFUGEES IN IRAQI KURDISTAN; OFFERS SUGGESTIONS TO GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- If required action has not been taken within 3 working days of receipt, please telephone the undersigned at 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY MAISON, RCON 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY MAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE
FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: Jalal Talabani

Date: April 18, 1991

Subject: Support for use of American forces to provide humanitarian relief and protection of refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan; offers suggestions to guarantee their safety

WH Referral Dated: April 26, 1991
NSCS ID# (if any): 232384

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____ A translation is attached.
____ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
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____ Other (see remarks).

REMARKS: Department of State is in direct, regular contact with his representatives.

UNCLASSIFIED

Director
Secretariat Staff
Iraqi Kurdistan Front

BM Box 5776
London WC1N 3XX

Our ref: ST/PH/IKP/40
Your ref:

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President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC, USA.

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Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[For the Iraqi Kurdish Front]