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Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)
Series: Subject File - General
Scanned/Unscanned: Scanned

WHORM Category Code: CO072
WHORM Category Name: Iraq, Republic of

Document Number: 234109 to 239242
Alpha File Name: Entire Category Processed
DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MOST REVEREND ANTHONY

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE AID FOR THE KURDS

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COMMENTS: 

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:M INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500 ___ ___

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

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*APPROPRIATE ACTION *ANSWERED *RESP=INITIALS *OF SIGNER *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *CODE = A *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
|               | OUTGOING |               |
|               |         |               |

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.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 10, 1991

Dear Bishop Anthony:

I have been asked by President Bush to respond to your concerns. The United States Government shares your empathy for all refugees/displaces persons fleeing to other areas of Iraq and neighboring countries in the wake of Saddam Hussein's brutality.

The United States 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 United States relief effort mounted in modern military history. Assistance provisions include: food, potable water, shelter, and medical care for the refugees/displaced persons. As of May 15, over thirty countries were reported to have contributed over $714 million and grants and relief supplies to the international humanitarian effort for Iraqi refugees and displaced persons.

Thank you for your message. I hope this information reassured you that the international community and the United States, in particular, have not forgotten this group. Efforts on their behalf will continue.

Sincerely,

Leigh Ann Metzger
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Most Reverend Anthony
Bishop of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of San Francisco
372 Santa Clara Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94127
MEMORANDUM FOR SHIRLEY GREEN

FROM: WILLIAM F. SITTMAN

SUBJECT: Response to Public Letters on the Kurd Issue

Attached at Tab A is a proposed response to three letters the President received on the Iraqi Kurd issue (Tab B). It can be used to respond to similar letters in the future.

Attachments
Tab A Response on Kurd Issue
Tab B Incoming Correspondence
Dear

Thank you for your letter concerning the refugee situation in Iraq. At the outset, you should know that the U.S. Government shares your concern for all refugees and displaced persons fleeing Iraq in the wake of Saddam’s brutality. Just as important, our response more than matches this concern.

The United States, working with other governments and international organizations, has led a massive humanitarian assistance program for the Iraqi refugees and displaced people along the Iraqi/Turkish border. Assistance provided under Operation Provide Comfort has included food, water, shelter and medical care; at the same time, coalition military forces have protected the refugees and managed the relief operations inside northern Iraq. As of May 15, over thirty countries were reported to have contributed over $700 million in grants and relief supplies for this humanitarian effort in Iraq.

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 humanitarian relief operations over to the United Nations are now well-advanced. Iraqi refugees and displaced persons in the south are being cared for by the UN and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent society in the demilitarized zone. Many others have fled to refugee camps established by the Saudi Government inside the Kingdom. International efforts to aid Iraqi refugees and displaced persons will continue so long as they are needed. Because of these efforts, tens of thousands of lives have been saved and hundreds of thousands of men, women and children have been able to return to their homes.

Thank you for your letter/message. I hope this has helped reassure you that the international community and the U.S. Government in particular have not forgotten these people.

Sincerely,
The Hon. George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

It is a cause of deep sorrow and alarm that you are apparently not doing anything to lead the nations of the world in coming to the aid of 1 million Iraqi refugees who are doomed to die, men, women and children.

Why after showing your ability to mobilize the world for war are you not doing as much or even more to help bring peace to those who need it most?

Yours very truly,

John F. Woolverton
Editor
June 18, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. SITTLMANN

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: SANDRA CHARLES

SUBJECT: Response to Public Letters on Kurd Issue

Attached at Tab I is a memo to Shirley Green forwarding a proposed response (Tab A) to three letters we have received on the Iraqi Kurd issue (Tab II). State provided the original draft reply.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to Shirley Green at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memo to Shirley Green
Tab A Response to Public Letters
Tab B Incoming Correspondence from Anthony, Woolverton and Reilly
Dear Bishop Anthony:

I have been asked by President Bush to respond to your concerns. The U.S. Government shares your empathy for all refugees/displaced persons 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

The Right Reverend,

Anthony,

Bishop of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of San Francisco,

372 Santa Clara Avenue,
San Francisco, California.
medical care for the refugees/displaced persons. As of May 15, over thirty countries were reported to have contributed over $714 million and grants and relief supplies to the international humanitarian effort for Iraqi refugees and displaced persons.

Thank you for your message. I hope this information reassured you that the international community and the U.S., in particular, have not forgotten this group. Efforts on their behalf will continue.

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

REFERENCE:  
To:  
From: Most Reverend Bishop Anthony  
Date: April 5, 1991  
Subj: Urges President to provide aid for the Kurds  

WH Referral Dated: May 11, 1991  
NSCS ID# (if any): 234109  

The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.  

ACTION TAKEN:  
XX 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:  

Director  
Secretariat Staff  

UNCLASSIFIED  
Classification
TO: GREEN, S
FROM: SITTMANN

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC LTRS ON KURD ISSUE

ACTION: SITTMANN SGD MEMO DUE DATE: 13 JUN 91 STATUS: C
STAFF OFFICER: HAASS
FILES: WH NSCP:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION
FOR ACTION FOR CONCURRENCE FOR INFO CHARLES EXECSEC
LOGREF: 9104273 9104274 CODES:

COMMENTS:

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TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY, BISHOP

KEYWORDS: IRAQ

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR URGES PRES TO PROVIDE AID FOR KURDS

ACTION: MEMO WFS TO SHIRLEY GREEN  DUE DATE: 13 JUN 91  STATUS: S
STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

FILES: WH  NSCP:  CODES:

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cc: VP, Sununu, Other

Should be seen by: 

(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS: done
TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ATTN: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ACTION REQUESTED:
DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 234109

MEDIA: MAILGRAM, DATED APRIL 5, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MOST REVEREND ANTHONY BISHOP
THE GREEK ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF
SAN FRANCISCO
372 SANTA CLARA AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94127

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE AID FOR THE KURDS

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
MR PRESIDENT,

THE NATION BELIEVED WITH YOU THAT WE HAD A MORAL DUTY TO REVERSE THE BLATANT AGGRESSION OF IRAQ AGAINST KUWAIT. IT BELIEVED ALSO IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER WHICH YOU PROCLAIMED. IT NOW STANDS IN SHOCK AT THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES WHICH THAT "JUST WAR" SET IN TRAIN. THERE MUST BE AN EQUALLY MORAL RESPONSE TO THE DISPOSSESSED PEOPLES OF IRAQ NOW BRUTALLY RERESSED AND DYING IN THEIR THOUSANDS. WE PLEAD WITH YOU ONCE AGAIN TO LEAD THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS IN SUCH SWIFT AND MERCIFUL ACTION.

+ BISHOP ANTHONY OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

57701

19:16 EST

MGMCMP