

Print

ID# 248533

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

00072

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 21, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE TIMOTHY J. PENNY

SUBJECT: SUGGESTS THAT A PORTION OF IRAQ'S FROZEN
ASSETS BE RELEASED TO UNICEF FOR THE SOLE
PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE TO IRAQI CITIZENS AND CHILDREN

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
FREDERICK MCCLURE		ORG	91/06/21	FM	A	91/06/24
REFERRAL NOTE:						
99 DOS		R	91/07/02	LJ		1/1
REFERRAL NOTE:						
NSC STTY		I	91/07/01	LJ	C	1/1
REFERRAL NOTE:						
REFERRAL NOTE:						
REFERRAL NOTE:						

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                       *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *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, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

June 24, 1991

Dear Congressman Penny:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President expressing your concern for the children of Iraq who are now vulnerable to disease and malnutrition.

We appreciate being advised of your interest in having a portion of Iraq's frozen funds released to UNICEF for medical and humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi citizens. Please know that I have shared your comments with President Bush. In addition, I have provided your remarks to the President's national security and foreign policy advisors so that they, too, are aware of your recommendations.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Timothy J. Penny
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:TBA:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - for Direct Response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - FYI

248539

TIMOTHY J. PENNY

1ST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER

WHIP AT-LARGE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 1991

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
436 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2472

DISTRICT OFFICES:
PARK TOWERS
22 NORTH BROADWAY
ROCHESTER, MN 55906
(507) 281-6053

BLUE EARTH COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
P.O. Box 3148
MANKATO, MN 56001
(507) 625-6921

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

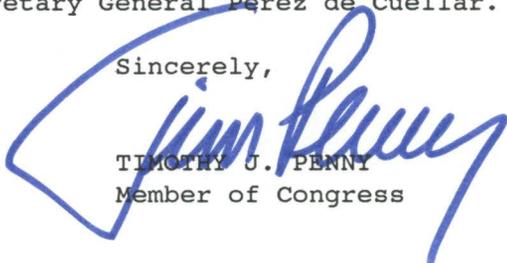
Recently medical personnel from the United States visited the war-devastated hospitals of Iraq. The conditions they found there are truly horrifying. A medical team from Harvard that visited Iraq in April estimated that 170,000 children will die of gastrointestinal disease complicated by malnutrition before summer's end. A group of Arab-American physicians who also visited the country have determined dysentery to be the number one killer in Iraq at this time. Related diseases such as typhoid fever and cholera, all the result of consuming contaminated food and water, are an even greater threat than malnutrition. The ability of medical personnel to combat these conditions has also been hampered, if not made virtually impossible.

As pointed out in the Time article of June 10, "Watching Children Starve to Death," the principal victims of disease and malnutrition are the most vulnerable of the society - the Iraqi children. These children have no source of help or healing. Since many of the country's resources have been destroyed and its assets remain frozen, Iraq's ability to respond to its own children is sadly limited.

Mr. President, you said many times during the Gulf War that our quarrel was not with the Iraqi people. We are certain that you would want to do all in your power to save the Iraqi children. Therefore, we would respectfully propose the following course of action: that a portion of Iraq's frozen assets be released to UNICEF for the sole purpose of providing medical and humanitarian assistance to Iraqi citizens. UNICEF control over the funds would ensure that the medical and public health needs of the civilian population, especially the children, would be met. If the Iraqi government wishes to use these assets to help their country's children, then they MUST agree to U.N. oversight and control.

We ask that you convey this request to the United Nations. We have expressed a similar concern to Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

Sincerely,



TIMOTHY J. PENNY
Member of Congress