NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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April 4, 1991 91 APR -4 PM 6:28

MEMORANDUM FOR PHILLIP D. BRADY

FROM:

WILLIAM F. SITTMANN KStofor

SUBJECT:

Proposed Press Release on US Humanitarian

Assistance to Iraqi People

We will be ready on Friday to announce the US humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people, after receiving assurances from ICRC and UNICEF and briefing Congress. The assurances are that the aid will be used solely for humanitarian assistance to civilians, that the Iraqi government will not control it, and that the aid will not be used for reconstruction.

Attached at Tab A is a proposed press release for your approval.

Attachment
Tab I Proposed Press Release

cc: Marlin Fitzwater Roman Popadiuk WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

April 3, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH:

R. RAND BEERS ACTING

FROM:

NANCY BEARG DYKE

SUBJECT:

Proposed Press Release on US Humanitarian

Assistance to the Iraqi People

We will be ready on Friday morning to announce the US humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people, after receiving (Thursday) assurances from ICRC and UNICEF and briefing Congress. The assurances are that the aid will be used solely for humanitarian assistance to civilians, that the Iraqi government will not control it, and that the aid will not be used for reconstruction.

A memorandum for Bill Sittmann's signature is attached at Tab I, forwarding the draft press release (Tab A) to Phillip Brady.

Ginny Lampley, Roman Popadiuk, Richard Haass Concurrences by:

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize Bill Sittmann to sign the memo to Phillip Brady at Tab I.

Approve Disapprove

Attachments

Bill Sittmann's Memo to Phillip Brady Tab I

Tab A Proposed Press Release

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THE SITUATION ROOM

PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY ROUTINE		RELEASER:DTG:				
	CLASSIFICATION		PAGES 2			
	Name) PHIL ACTION	(Phone Number)	(Room No.)			
TO (Agency) Phil Brady/		DEPT/ROOM NO.	PHONE NUMBER			
Marlin Fitzwate						
Roman Popadiuk/	11 11					
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

America has a long tradition of laying aside politics and reaching out to people in need. President Bush has often stated our humanitarian concern for the people of Iraq, and that we have no quarrel with them. Today we are announcing a US humanitarian assistance effort that extends a hand of friendship to the Iraqi people, especially the children.

We will donate \$869,000 to UNICEF (United Nations Fund for Children) for child immunizations on an urgent basis. To the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), we will donate \$131,000 and 1000 tons of food for distribution in Iraq. ICRC and UNICEF have assured us that the aid, which is part of an international effort, will only be used for humanitarian assistance to civilians and will be controlled by these international organizations, not the Iraqi government. None of the aid will be used for reconstruction. The aid is intended for people in need throughout Iraq, regardless of their ethnic or religious group.

These donations are in addition to the considerable assistance CENTCOM is providing refugees and displaced people in southern Iraq, plus earlier US food and monetary donations for Gulf refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Iran, and Syria.

The Departments of State and Defense have further details.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary (Newport Beach, California)

For Immediate Release

April 5, 1991

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The human tragedy unfolding in and around Iraq demands immediate action on a massive scale. At stake are not only the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children, but the peace and security of the Gulf.

Since the beginning of the Gulf war on August 2, the United States has contributed more than \$35 million for refugees and displaced persons in the region. Many other countries have also contributed. It is clear, however, that the current tragedy requires a far greater effort. As a result, I have directed a major new effort be undertaken to assist Iraqi refugees.

Beginning this Sunday, U.S. Air Force transport planes will fly over northern Iraq and drop supplies of food, blankets, clothing, tents and other relief-related items for refugees and other Iraqi civilians suffering as a result of the situation there.

I want to emphasize that this effort is prompted only by humanitarian concerns. We expect the Government of Iraq to permit this effort to be carried out without any interference.

I want to add that what we are planning to do is intended as a step up in immediate aid, such as is also being provided by the British, the French, and other coalition partners. We will be consulting with the United Nations on how it can best provide for the many refugees in and around Iraq on a long-term basis as necessary. We will continue consulting with our coalition partners in this and in other efforts designed to alleviate the plight of the many innocent Iraqis whose lives have been endangered by the brutal and inhumane actions of the Iraqi government.

I also want to add that this urgent air-drop is but one of several steps the United States is taking to deal with this terrible situation. I will shortly be signing an order that will authorize up to \$10 million from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund. These funds will help meet the needs of the burgeoning refugee population in the region. Our military forces in southern Iraq will continue to assist refugees and displaced persons. We are also providing considerable economic and food assistance to the Government of Turkey to help it sustain the many refugees who have taken refuge there. We are prepared as well to deploy a U.S. military medical unit to the border area in southern Turkey to meet emergency needs.

The United States is also concerned about the welfare of those Iraqi refugees now fleeing to Iran. We will be communicating, through our established channel, to the Government of Iran, our willingness to encourage and contribute to international organizations carrying out relief efforts aiding these individuals.

In an effort to help innocent people, and especially the children of Iraq, we will be donating \$869,000 to UNICEF for child immunizations in Iraq. We will also be providing a further \$131,000 and 1,000 tons of food to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In all cases, funds and goods provided to international organizations will be distributed by the organizations themselves to civilians in Iraq.

Finally, I have asked Secretary Baker to travel to Turkey, en route to the Middle East, to meet with president Ozal and visit the border area to assess the refugee situation and report back to me.

National Security Council The White House

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National Security Council The White House

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TO: BRADY, P

FROM: SITTMANN

DOC DATE: 04 APR 91

SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

IRAQ MEDIA

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE ON US HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQI

PEOPLE

ACTION: HILL SGD MEMO

DUE DATE: 06 APR 91 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: DYKE

LOGREF:

FILES: WH NSCP:

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RECORD ID: 9102445

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