TO: SCOWCROFT
FROM: RIEDEL
HAASS

KEYWORDS: IRAQ
UN
HUMAN RIGHTS
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: REPLY TO SEN LEVIN ON IRAQ

ACTION: OBE / STATUS ORIGINAL UNKNOWN
DUE DATE: 10 AUG 91
STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS
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RIEDEL - Please check your files for the original of this package. Our system indicates it is in your office.

If you find the package and it should be closed, please forward it to Secretariat for close out and filing.

If you can't find it, but it should be closed, please let me know with an E-mail note or check here - 

Thank you very much!

Walter Avis
NSC/S
x3723
September 9, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BREN'T SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: BRUCE O. RIEDEL

SUBJECT: Reply to Senator Levin on Iraq

Senator Levin wrote the President in July urging him to do more to relieve humanitarian problems in Iraq (Tab II). State Department prepared the draft response at Tab I which summarizes our own humanitarian efforts on behalf of the Iraqi people and notes that passage of U.N. Security Council Resolution 706 creates an internationally sanctioned system for permitting Iraq to export oil to pay for humanitarian needs under the control of the sanctions regime.

Concurrence by: Mike Andricos

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Senator Levin at Tab I.

Attachment(s)

Tab I Letter to Senator Levin
Tab II Letter from Senator Levin
Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your July 15 letter expressing concern about the public health situation in Iraq.

Reports of food shortages and epidemics in some parts of Iraq, particularly the south, are a source of deep concern. The President emphasized from the beginning of the Gulf crisis last fall that we had no quarrel with the Iraqi people, and this remains U.S. policy. It is not the intent of the U.S. Government or the international community that the Iraqi people should pay the price for the aggressive and irresponsible actions of the present Iraqi leadership. We supported passage of UN Security Council Resolution 688 that demanded Saddam cease his brutal attacks on Iraq’s Shia and Kurdish communities.

The present Iraqi leadership, however, has consistently shown little concern for the welfare of the Iraqi people, particularly groups such as the Shi’a in the south and Kurds in the north, which have been at odds with the central government. Indeed, international relief agencies have documented recent government diversion of available food stocks away from areas in greatest need of relief. It is essential to maintain all possible economic and political pressure on the Iraqi regime to meet its obligations under all United Nations Security Council Resolution.

The United States, along with our coalition partners, has played a leading role in aiding Iraqi civilians, including the hundreds of thousands forced to flee their homes in the wake of the popular uprising against Saddam Hussein last spring. The U.S. Government pledged $61.3 million to the UN appeal for relief operations through the end of this month.

We will continue to support humanitarian relief efforts as necessary. Moreover, in concert with coalition partners and other members of the United Nations Security Council, we supported United Nations Resolution 706 that will allow the Iraqi
government to buy food and medicine with the proceeds of carefully controlled oil sales. This resolution requires equitable distribution of food and humanitarian supplies throughout the country under close international monitoring.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.  20510-2202
July 26, 1991

Dear Senator Levin:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President recommending that the U.S. and the world community provide humanitarian aid to the people of Iraq.

We appreciate being advised of your interest in this regard. Please know that I have shared your comments with the President's national security and foreign policy advisors for their review.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FDM:JHH:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for direct response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - FYI
United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 15, 1991

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recently, two teams of physicians visited Iraqi hospitals. A group from Harvard University visited in April and estimated that 170,000 children may die of infectious diseases complicated by malnutrition before summer's end. Previously rare diseases, such as dysentery, typhoid fever, gastroenteritis, and cholera are now widespread. Food shortages are also widespread. Complicating this situation is the damage sustained by the electrical, sewage treatment, and water purification systems in Iraq. A group of Arab-American doctors visited the hospitals this spring and confirmed the Harvard group's findings.

I call on you to urge the world community to respond to what both medical teams are calling a "public health catastrophe." Funds are urgently needed to alleviate the suffering of millions of Iraqi children. I urge you to find a mechanism that would enable true humanitarian relief while guaranteeing that the government of Saddam Hussein does not control or have access to any of the funds. I ask that you convey this urgent request to the United Nations and the world to help save the lives of countless innocents.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

Carl Levin

CL/jws
DATE RECEIVED: JULY 25, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE CARL LEVIN

SUBJECT: ASKS THE PRESIDENT TO URGE THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO RESPOND WITH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ IN ORDER TO AVOID A PUBLIC HEALTH CATASTROPHE

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ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210 

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*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * |
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * |
*X-INTERIM REPLY * |

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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.
July 26, 1991

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CL/jws