DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 19, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE REVEREND PAUL H. STREGE

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO TRANSFER A PORTION OF IRAQI STATE ASSETS HELD IN THE U.S. TO INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND FOOD ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ

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ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)

LISA BATTAGLIA

REFERRAL NOTE: C0K77

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: The Reverend Paul H. Strege and Bernie D. Marquardt

Date: August 13, 1991

Subject: Urges the President to transfer a portion of Iraqi State assets held in the U.S. to international relief organizations for emergency medical and food assistance to Iraq

WH Referral Dated: September 10, 1991

NSCS ID# (if any): 263522

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:
Mr. Paul H. Strege,  
Executive Director  
Ms. Bernie B. Marquardt  
Executive Assistant  
Christians Linked in Mission  
P.O. Box 20138  
St. Louis, MO 63123-0338

Dear Mr. Strege and Ms. Marquardt,

The White House has asked the Department to respond to your letter of August 13 to the President urging funding of emergency medical and food assistance to the people of Iraq using frozen Iraqi assets.

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. It is essential, however, to maintain all possible economic and political pressure on the Iraqi regime to meet its obligations under the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The present Iraqi leadership 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.

We continue, however, to support humanitarian relief efforts as necessary. In consultation with coalition partners and other members of the United Nations Security Council we supported United Nations Resolution 706 that authorized the Iraqi government to sell, under international supervision, $1.6 billion of its oil and purchase food and medicine. This resolution requires equitable distribution of food and humanitarian supplies throughout the country under close international monitoring.
Previously, the United States, along with our coalition partners, played a leading role in aiding Iraqi civilians, particularly 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 August 1991, and recently announced a substantial new contribution to private/voluntary organizations conducting supplemental feeding programs and immunization campaigns concentrating on women and children.

Thank you for sharing the views of your organization.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ronald E. Neumann
Director
Office of Northern Gulf Affairs
(Iran and Iraq)
THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
REFERRAL

SEPTEMBER 10, 1991

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 263522
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED AUGUST 13, 1991
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH
FROM: THE REVEREND PAUL H. STREGE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHRISTIANS LINKED IN MISSION
POST OFFICE BOX
ST. LOUIS, MO 63123

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO TRANSFER A PORTION
OF IRAQI STATE ASSETS HELD IN THE U.S.
TO INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS FOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND FOOD ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ

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
President George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush,

Out of humanitarian concerns and on behalf of up to 170,000 sick and starving children in Iraq, we urge you to exercise your prerogative of transferring a portion of Iraqi state assets held in the U.S. to international relief organizations such as UNICEF to use for emergency medical and food assistance.

This action would be in accord with House Concurrent Resolution 168 and Senate concurrent Resolution 54.

Regardless of the original cause of the war, we believe innocent Iraqi children should not be victimized as a result of the war and destruction in which the U.S. was also a partner.

Out of Christian concern,

Sincerely yours,

Paul H. Streege  
Bernie B. Marquardt

cc:  Senator Christopher Bond  
Senator John Danforth  
Rep. Richard A. Gephardt  
Bread for the World