

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 263609

00072

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 19, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE REVEREND ROBERT E. LUCAS

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO TRANSFER IRAQ'S FROZEN
ASSETS TO INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS
FOR RELIEF AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
LEIGH ANN METZGER		ORG	91/08/19	CM A	91/10/82
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500 4800

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

*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 *			*

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

August 27, 1991

Dear Reverend Lucas:

On behalf of the President, thank you for your letter expressing concern for Iraqi children in need of food and medicine.

Reports of food shortages and epidemics in some parts of Iraq, particularly in the south, are a source of deep concern. As you pointed out, the President emphasized from the beginning of the Gulf crisis last fall that we had no quarrel with the Iraqi people, and this remains United States 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.

The United States, along with our coalition partners, has 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 United Nations appeal for relief operations through the end of this month, and in July announced a substantial new contribution to private/voluntary organizations conducting supplemental feeding programs and immunization campaigns concentrating on women and children.

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 the 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 will continue to support humanitarian relief efforts as necessary. Moreover, in consulting with coalition partners and other members of the United Nations Security Council we supported U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 that will allow the Iraqi government to buy food and humanitarian supplies valued at \$1.6 billion to come from the proceeds of carefully controlled oil sales. This resolution required equitable distribution of food and humanitarian supplies throughout the country under strict control and close international monitoring.

The United States has a clear interest in the course of events in Iraq. Saddam Hussein has a great deal to answer for, and President Bush has made it clear that the U.S. government will not have normal relations with Iraq as long as Saddam remains in power. More broadly, U.S. policy will continue to advance our vision of a democratic, tolerant Iraq which respects the rights of all its citizens and lives at peace with its neighbors.

As the President's liaison to the religious community, I hope this information has been helpful in responding to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leigh Ann Metzger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leigh" being more prominent.

Leigh Ann Metzger
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

The Reverend Robert E. Lucas
Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of the Twin Cities
Presbyterian Church (USA)
122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 508
Minneapolis, MN 55404



263609

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

11/ *L. Metzger*
August 14, 1991

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

Dear Mr. President:

Please add my voice to those many others who are pleading with you to respond to the needs of the estimated 170,000 Iraqi children who may die within the next few months if they do not receive needed food and medicines due to shortages brought about by Gulf War and the imposition of international sanctions.

I support House Concurrent Resolution 168 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 54 which would transfer Iraq's frozen assets to international relief organizations for relief and refugee assistance. If Iraq is not to be permitted to sell its oil and thereby afford to purchase food and medicine, then the transfer of Iraq's assets would provide a means whereby Iraqi resources could be used to assist the people of Iraq. As you have said, these people are not our enemy. They have endured enough suffering because of the actions of Saddam Hussein and the war directed at him and his army. I beg you now to do as much for the restoration of normality to the Iraqi people as you did in expelling Hussein's forces from Kuwait.

Yours truly,

The Reverend Robert E. Lucas
Executive Presbyter

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