

EF

G. F.

365407

00072

12/1

Dear Barbara,

I just realized that I still had this original -- a copy may already have been sent to Central Files.

We actually received this on Oct. 26.

Janet Mullins, who in her capacity as A/S for Legislative Affairs @ State, had handled such items when we were there told me on Nov. 4 that Steve Berry (then Acting A/S for Legis. Affairs) had his office working on Cong. Conyer's request per this letter.

Bottom line: It's my understanding that those who should be are working to respond to this letter, but could you please ensure that this letter is in fact in the system, tasked to State's Legis. Affairs Office for direct reply? Again, it's my understanding that they already have a faxed copy, so this is just to make sure the original letter is whereever the Records Management think it belongs.

Thanks (& sorry to bother you with it!)

Caron J.

JOHN CONYERS, JR., MICHIGAN,
CHAIRMAN

CARDISS COLLINS, ILLINOIS
GLENN ENGLISH, OKLAHOMA
HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
TED WEISS, NEW YORK
MIKE SYNAR, OKLAHOMA
STEPHEN L. NEAL, NORTH CAROLINA
DOUG BARNARD, JR., GEORGIA
TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT E. WISE, JR., WEST VIRGINIA
BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
BEN ERDREICH, ALABAMA
GERALD D. KLECZKA, WISCONSIN
ALBERT G. BUSTAMANTE, TEXAS
MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
GARY A. CONDIT, CALIFORNIA
PATSY T. MINK, HAWAII
RAY THORNTON, ARKANSAS
COLLIN C. PETERSON, MINNESOTA
ROSA L. DELAURO, CONNECTICUT
CHARLES J. LUKEN, OHIO
JOHN W. COX, JR., ILLINOIS

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

October 16, 1992

FRANK HORTON, NEW YORK
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
AL MCCANDLESS, CALIFORNIA
J. DENNIS HASTERT, ILLINOIS
JON L. KYL, ARIZONA
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
STEVEN SCHIFF, NEW MEXICO
C. CHRISTOPHER COX, CALIFORNIA
CRAIG THOMAS, WYOMING
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
RONALD K. MACHTLEY, RHODE ISLAND
DICK ZIMMER, NEW JERSEY
WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR., NEW HAMPSHIRE
DAVID L. HOBSON, OHIO
SCOTT L. KLUG, WISCONSIN

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT
INDEPENDENT

MAJORITY--(202) 225-5051
MINORITY--(202) 225-5074

Mr. James Baker
Chief of Staff
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Baker:

There have been numerous disturbing revelations in the last few days that the State Department, during your tenure as Secretary of State, may have known more about the Iraq bank loan scandal than has been admitted.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations, and its Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security, with oversight jurisdiction over the Department of State, I request that you provide answers to the following questions:

First, did you or your aides meet with, discuss or attempt to influence, in any way, top-level Justice Department officials concerning the Italian government's view that BNL-Rome should not be indicted for any actions by the Atlanta branch of BNL? If such meetings took place, did you know at the time that U.S. intelligence agencies were reporting that officials of BNL-Rome had authorized the loans to Iraq? Did you investigate whether the intelligence agency reports were credible? Did you inform the Justice Department that, for "national security" reasons, BNL-Rome should not be indicted? Identify all the State Department employees who were involved in attempting to influence the Justice Department in this manner.

Second, did you or your aides deny requests by Justice Department's investigators to travel to Turkey and Iraq to interview individuals who allegedly helped Iraq buy -- or trade for -- weapons in a fraudulent scheme involving Commodity Credit Corporation loan guarantees? If so, why were these requests denied? Were you concerned that the United States should not do anything to offend the Iraqi government? Was Iraq threatening to buy food and weapons from other nations if the BNL investigation was pursued? Did you or your aides attempt to influence the Justice Department to remove Wafai Dajani (a Jordanian businessman who reportedly brokered Iraq's BNL transactions) as a co-conspirator? Was Dajani's name deleted from the indictment

Mr. James Baker
October 16, 1992
Page Two

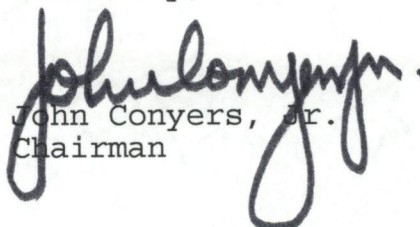
because he was Jordan's former intelligence chief and a close advisor to King Hussein? Identify all the State Department employees who participated in the decision to deny the Justice Department investigators permission to interview these witnesses overseas and who urged removing Dajani's name from the indictment.

Third, did you or your aides participate in a government-wide effort to coordinate or restrict the flow of BNL-related information to Congress -- on "national security" or other grounds? Was there an interagency task force that decided whether an agency should release any information concerning BNL, even if the information was requested by Congress? Identify all the State Department employees who participated in the decision to withhold or release BNL-related information.

Fourth, have you obtained, or made efforts to obtain, documents seized by United Nations inspectors during their trips to Baghdad pertaining to the involvement of American companies in supplying technology for Iraq's atomic development program? If the documents have been obtained, please supply copies to the Committee. If you have not obtained the documents, please explain why.

In light of the serious national interest in getting the facts of this matter to the American people, I request that you respond to this letter by November 6, 1992. I also request that you provide all relevant documents, including memoranda, talking points and correspondence described in response to this request.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman