**THE WHITE HOUSE**
**CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

**INCOMING**

**DATE RECEIVED:** MAY 19, 1992

**NAME OF CORRESPONDENT:** MR. JOSEPH A. PLONSKI

**SUBJECT:** EXPRESSES VIEWS CONCERNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE KURDISH POPULATION IN IRAQ

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**COMMENTS:**


**ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS:** MEDIA: L

**INDIVIDUAL CODES:** 4900 4400

**PL MAIL**

**USER CODES:** (A)__________ (B)__________ (C)__________

**ACTION CODES:**

*APPROPRIATE ACTION*  *ANSWERED*  *OUTGOING*  *CORRESPONDENCE:*

*C-COMMENT/RECOM*  *NON-SPEC-REFERRAL*  *TYPE RESP=INITIALS*  *OF SIGNER*  *CODE = A:*

*D-DRAFT RESPONSE*  *COMPLETED*  *COMPLETED = DATE OF*  *OUTGOING*  *

*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET*  *SUSPENDED*  *

*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*  *

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

REFERENCE:

To:  President Bush

From:  Mr. Joseph A. Plonski

Date:  May 13, 1992

Subj:  Expresses views concerning the human rights violations against the Kurdish population in Iraq.

WH Referral Dated:  7/24/92
NSCS ID# (if any):  328854

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.
X  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:

[Signature]
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED
Classification
Dear Mr. Plonski:

Thank you for your letter of May 13 to President Bush concerning the plight of Kurds in Northern Iraq.

We share your concern for the Kurds, and for many years, the U.S. government has pressed the Iraqi government to improve its abysmal human rights record. We have also encouraged the use of Iraq's rich oil resources to benefit all of the country's ethnic, religious and ideological groups. Although we are sensitive to the legitimate concerns of the Kurds and Iraq's other minorities, we do not envisage direct U.S. intervention to shape a successor regime. As President Bush has said, these matters are for the Iraqi people.

Nevertheless, the United States has a clear interest in the course of events in Iraq. We have maintained US and coalition forces (British, French and Turkish) in Turkey since April 1991 to protect civilians in northern Iraq. We continue to press Iraq to abide by UN Security Council Resolution 688 and to cease repression of its civilian population throughout the country. Saddam Hussein has a great deal to answer for, and President Bush has made it clear that the U.S. government will not resume normal relations with Iraq as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Because we are sensitive to the Iraqi regime's threats against the Kurds and Iraq's other ethnic and religious groups, we strongly support international humanitarian relief efforts throughout Iraq. More broadly, U.S. policy will continue to advance our vision of a democratic, tolerant Iraq which respects the rights of all its citizens, including Kurds, and one that lives at peace with its neighbors.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Neumann
Director
Office of Northern Gulf Affairs
(Iran/Iraq)

Enclosure: Correspondence returned
TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 328854

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 13, 1992

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. JOSEPH A. PLONSKI
PRESIDENT, NEW JERSEY CHAPTER
NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF AMERICAN
ETHNIC GROUPS, INC.
728 RIDGE STREET
NEWARK NJ 07104

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES VIEWS CONCERNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE KURDISH POPULATION
IN 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
May 13, 1992

Honorable George Bush, President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We understand that the Kurdish population in Iraq have been hassling that population for many, many years.

The State Department was aware of what the Iraqis were doing with their aerial bombs filled with poison gas as far back as 1983. However, it was the Reagan Administration policy not to rock the moslem boat. He rejected our calling Saddam a murderer. He wanted an ally rather than an enemy in that area so the poor Kurds were permitted to die in their own cities.

May we ask, now that you are in possession of "Proof Positive" what action you plan to take against Iraq?

Respectfully,

JOSEPH A. PLONSKI

JAP:lc