THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 18, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. WILLIAM H. MCBEATH M.D.

SUBJECT: EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF RELIEF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO IRAQ DESPITE SANCTIONS

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REFERRAL NOTE: SEE MEMO ATTACHED

COMMENTS: SEE ID 329808 FYI ENCLOSURE

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L

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* ACTION CODES: * DISPOSITION *
* CORRESPONDENCE: *
* A-APPROPRIATE ACTION * A-ANSWERED *
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* CODE = A *
* F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *
* S-SUSPENDED *
* T-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC *
* TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
* R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *
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* S-FOR-SIGNATURE *
* CODE = OUTGOING *
* X-INTERIM REPLY *
* COMPLETED = DATE OF *
* OUTGOING *

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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: Pres. Bush
From: Dr. William McBeath
Date: June 15, 1992
Subj: Expresses support for efforts of relief agencies to provide humanitarian aid to Iraq despite sanctions

WH Referral Dated: July 27, 1992
NSCS ID# (if any): 333891

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: We have previously responded to Dr. McBeath's letter when it was addressed to the Secretary. A copy of our response is attached.
June 30, 1992

Willam H. McBeath, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director
American Public Health Association
1015 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. McBeath:

I am responding to your letter of June 15, 1992, to Secretary Baker, covering the resolutions adopted by the American Public Health Association at its 119th Annual Meeting. We share your concern for the welfare of the Iraqi people.

As the President has stated, the United states has no quarrel with the Iraqi people. We have contributed significantly to humanitarian relief programs. In fact, US contributions include $94 million to United Nations agencies, over 63,000 metric tons of food, and $6.9 million to private agencies. This assistance now totals nearly $650 million overall, including the cost of aid to people fleeing the Iraqi army into the barren hills along the Turkish border in Spring, 1991.

As you may know, United Nations Security Council resolution 687 places no restrictions on the shipment of medicines to Iraq; food shipments require only notification to the United Nations. In fact, since March 1991, the United Nations Sanctions Committee has received notifications of planned shipments of over 8 million metric tons of food and other civilian supplies for Iraq. This is almost equivalent to a year's supply of food imports.

The following summary of Resolution 687 may also be of interest to your organization:

Resolution 687 demands that Iraq "respect the inviolability of the international boundary" with Kuwait and calls for a UN observer force to monitor the border. It also requires that Iraq destroy all bacterial, chemical, and nuclear weapons, and ballistic missiles as well as the technology used in researching and building them. Iraq is required to submit all facilities pertaining to weapons of mass destruction and their production to inspection by independent investigation teams. Resolution 687 also requests that Iraq return all seized Kuwaiti property and holds Iraq liable for loss or damage to the environment and natural resources resulting from its unlawful invasion of
Kuwait. Iraq is also required to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in locating and repatriating Kuwaiti and other third country nationals.

From our concern for the Iraqi people, we supported the adoption of UN Resolutions 706 and 712 which allow Iraq to sell $1.6 billion worth of oil to purchase food and humanitarian relief. The resolutions require that the UN monitor the distribution of these supplies to assure that they are equitably shared by the Iraqi people. Monitoring is necessary because the Government of Iraq has imposed an embargo, including food and medicine, against its northern provinces and operates a food rationing system which discriminates against its southern provinces. These resolutions also call for a percentage of the oil revenues to go to a fund to compensate victims of the war and to pay for other Iraqi-related UN costs. Nine months later, Iraq has not implemented Resolutions 706 and 712.

The Iraqi government itself holds the key to protecting the health and well-being of its people. In Resolutions 706 and 712, the United Nations has provided a mechanism which will go a long way towards meeting the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. In the meantime, we remain concerned about health conditions in Iraq and continue our cooperation with United Nations agencies to provide emergency assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures:
Correspondence returned
THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JULY 27, 1992

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 333891

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUNE 15, 1992

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: DR. WILLIAM H. MCBETH M.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
1015 FIFTEENTH STREET, NW.
WASHINGTON DC 20005

SUBJECT: EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF RELIEF
AGENCIES TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO
IRAQ DESPITE SANCTIONS

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDESRIGNED 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
June 15, 1992

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

At its 119th Annual Meeting the American Public Health Association [APHA], representing a combined national and affiliate membership of 55,000 public health professionals and community health leaders, adopted two resolutions entitled, "Protecting the Public's Health in Iraq" and "Examination of the Lessons of the Persian Gulf Crisis." Copies are enclosed for your information.

The Persian Gulf war devastated the organizational and physical infrastructure of the Iraqi health care system. Because of this destruction and Iraq's consequent lack of resources, the war has severely compromised the health care Iraqi citizens receive.

The Gulf War directly contributed to the death and disability of more than 100,000 people, and the aftermath poses a continued health hazard to the Iraqi. The uprooting of entire populations, such as the Kurds in the North, has raised the specter of famine and pestilence, while the environmental impact of the war could cause long-term ecological damage and disastrously impact the food supply of the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

In response to this situation, APHA recommends that:

- Food, medical care and humanitarian aid be provided for the refugees and people in the region affected by the war.

- The US Congress and Coalition partners take all reasonable steps, including the modification of sanctions, in order to facilitate the rapid repair of the public health infrastructure.

- The US cease all sales or transfers of conventional weapons of mass destruction to the Middle East.

The phase-out of military responses to complex international problems, and the use of international negotiations to resolve international disputes, is necessary
to insure both a just and lasting peace and the health and well-being of the world's people.

APHA supports the current efforts of relief agencies to provide food, medical care and humanitarian aid to Iraq despite the sanctions. We urge you to address the concerns and recommendations expressed in our resolutions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

William H. McBeath, MD, MPH
Executive Director
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Comments:
9125: Examination of the Lessons of the Persian Gulf Crisis

The American Public Health Association,
In accordance with its long standing policy of opposition to militarism as a means to solve complex international problems: and
Concurring with the resolution of the World Health Assembly that recognize the special responsibilities of health workers to maintain healthful conditions through peace and social justice: and
Witnessing the War in the Persian Gulf directly contributed to the death and disability of more than 100,000 people, and the physical and organizational destruction of the health care system in the region; and
Concerned that the uprooting of populations, the Kurds in the north and the substantial numbers in both southern Iraq and Kuwait, has raised the specter of famine and pestilence and its most classic and brutalizing effects; and
Realizing that war reconstruction costs may range as high as $50 billion for Kuwait and $150 billion for Iraq: and

Observing that the environmental effects of the war, including all fires and oil spills pose a severe threat to the health of inhabitants of the region, particularly children and the elderly, with possible long-term ecological changes that can disastrously impact the food supply of the Middle East and Southwest Asia: and

Realizing that the prosecution of the Gulf War increased the risks of use of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, with more than 500 nuclear weapons reported present in the theater of operations; and

Noting that the US plans to sell over $20 billion in arms to various countries of the Middle East in the coming fiscal year; and

Observing that the initial financial costs of the Gulf War military operations have been estimated as ranging between $43 billion and $60 billion; and

Recognizing that a major casualty of the War has been the federal funding that would have become available for a variety of programs necessary for the public health and welfare of the American people; therefore
1. Calls for food, medical care and humanitarian aid for refugees and people in the region affected by the war;
2. Calls on relief organizations to compile and publicize a comprehensive assessment of the demographic, health, social and environmental consequences of the war to provide a social accounting of its impact;
3. Underscores its opposition to the use of military force for the resolution of international problems, recommending instead the use of international negotiations;
4. Urges the US and the UN to work toward a lasting and just peace in the Middle East;
5. Demands the immediate cessation of sales and/or transfers of conventional weapons of mass destruction to the Middle East;
6. Calls for the creation of a nuclear and chemical/biological weapons-free zone in the Mideast, to be coordinated with international, mutually verifiable agreements to completely end the proliferation of such weapons;
7. Reiterates its call to all nations to immediately stop the testing and production of nuclear weapons in coordination with good faith negotiations to institute a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty so as to strengthen the aforementioned drive to halt the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction; and
8. Calls for a substantial phased reduction and not merely a reduction in projected increases of the military budget over the next five years, coupled with a reversal of budgetary caps imposed by Congress at the end of 1990 that forbade the transfer of savings in military expenditures to needed social expenditures;
9. "Supports the current efforts of relief agencies to provide food, medical care and humanitarian aid despite the sanctions; and"
10. Supports UN Security Council proposal that Iraq should be permitted to sell a limited amount of oil, with the income used under supervision of appropriate UN agencies, for food, medical care and humanitarian aid.

References

9126: Protecting the Public’s Health in Iraq

The American Public Health Association,
Recognizing that severe harm has been documented concerning the public health of Iraqi civilians; and
Realizing that maternal and child health in Iraq has been severely compromised as a result of the Persian
Gulf War; and
Noting the difficulty in providing adequate water supply, sewer systems, and health services in post-war
Iraq; therefore
Urge the United States and Coalition partners to take all reasonable Steps, including the modification of sanctions, in
order to facilitate the rapid repair of the public health infrastructure, including, but not limited to, water supply, sewage systems; food supplies and distribution,
hospital and health center services, medical supplies; and electricity.