THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

DATE RECEIVED: DECEMBER 22, 1992
NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. CLIFTON KIRKPATRICK

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE OVERFLIGHT PROTECTION OF BOTH THE KURDISH AND SHITE AREAS IN IRAQ UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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COMMENTS:


ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 1 MEDIAL

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* * 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 75,0EOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.
December 17, 1992

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write out of deep concern for both the people of Iraq and the role of the United States in the post-Cold War world.

The time is approaching when the international community must decide whether to continue the protective overflights by U.S. planes in both the Kurdish part of northern Iraq and the Shiite portions of southern Iraq.

A precipitous withdrawal of this aerial surveillance would likely result in an immediate assault by Iraqi government forces and the death of many of those who have resisted Baghdad's control.

The international community must not abandon these peoples by simply standing aside and allowing such a slaughter to occur.

On the other hand, neither the United States, nor any single national government, nor an ad hoc grouping of nations should determine when and where intervention in the internal life of a country should be undertaken. Such weighty and complex decisions should be made only by an official international body. Furthermore, any military action should be carried out fully under the command of an appropriate international organization.

In the case of Iraq, therefore, we urge you to support continuing the overflight protection of both the Kurdish and Shiite areas of the country under the auspices and command of the United Nations. That would mean abandoning unilateral U.S. action while committing our country to providing a fair share of the material, personnel and finances necessary to maintain the effort.

Such action on your part would serve the humanitarian intent of the original U.S. involvement. Furthermore, placing this concern and the resources we are willing to commit to it fully under United Nations command, would be a powerful symbol of the desire to see the U.N. assume the role of responding to massive threats to human life and well-being and to its having the support necessary to enforce judgments made by the international community.

We urge action along these lines as the specific decision is made about the Iraqi overflights.

Sincerely,

Clifton Kirkpatrick, Director
Global Mission Ministry Unit

Belle Miller McMaster, Director
Social Justice and Peacemaking
Ministry Unit

CK/BMM/pf