

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4385

6/12/91

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

249052

0083

MEETING WITH RED ADAIR

DATE: Wednesday, June 12, 1991
LOCATION: Oval Office
TIME: 2:00 - 2:15 p.m.
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT 

I. PURPOSE

To discuss firefighting efforts in Kuwait and associated problems, and to get Mr. Adair's views on the situation in Kuwait.

II. BACKGROUND

Red Adair is one of the many firefighters hired by the Kuwaiti government to put out the oil fires in country. He testified yesterday to the effect that delays in obtaining equipment are adversely affecting his operations, and that predictions that the fires will be out within a year are grossly exaggerated.

Your meeting provides an opportunity to hear from a first-hand source about developments in Kuwait, and to get a clearer picture of the problems inhibiting reconstruction and firefighting efforts.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See Tab C

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House photographer.

V. SEQUENCE

2:00 - 2:15 P.M. - Meeting

Attachments

Tab A Points to be Made
Tab B List of Participants

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

4385

June 12, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: *Richard N. Haass* RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: *Sandra Charles* SANDRA CHARLES

SUBJECT: Red Adair Meeting with the President

Attached at Tab I is the memorandum for Red Adair's meeting with the President today at 2:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachment

Tab I Memo to the President
Tab A Points to be Made
Tab B List of Participants

the ABC told me
they were told
"no b.p. was
necessary" for this N.
late-added event.

This did not come thru
on office.

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING
WITH RED ADAIR

- I AM PLEASED YOU STOPPED BY. I WANT TO HEAR A COMPLETELY CANDID ASSESSMENT FROM YOU OF WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE KUWAIT, FIRST ON THE FIRE FIGHTING, BUT ALSO ON RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.
- YOUR REMARKS WERE PRETTY TOUGH ON THE HILL YESTERDAY. I GATHER YOU'RE STILL HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT IN AND WATER SUPPLIES. WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM? IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP?
- IS THE EQUIPMENT YOU NEED AVAILABLE BUT JUST DELAYED IN TRANSIT? IF YOU HAD IT, WOULD IT SPEED UP GETTING THE JOB ANY?

CARD 2 OF 3

- ARE THERE ENOUGH PEOPLE AVAILABLE FOR THIS EFFORT? I UNDERSTAND KUWAIT HAS DECIDED TO HIRE SEVERAL FOREIGN FIREFIGHTING COMPANIES, INCLUDING FROM IRAN, TO HELP OUT. WILL THAT SPEED THINGS UP OR ONLY FURTHER COMPLICATE YOUR EFFORTS?
- YOU ALSO SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE FIRES WON'T BE OUT FOR FOUR TO FIVE YEARS. WE HAVE SEEN MORE OPTIMISTIC ESTIMATES, AND I UNDERSTAND MORE WELL FIRES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUT OUT THAN WAS ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. I'D BE INTERESTED IN HEARING YOUR RATIONALE ON WHY THIS EFFORT WILL TAKE SO LONG.

CARD 3 OF 3

- I ALSO WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES INSIDE KUWAIT. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN COMMENT ON THIS OR NOT, BUT IT IS A MATTER OF GROWING CONCERN HERE.
- I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO HIS HIGHNESS THE AMIR, THAT WHILE SOME OF THESE STORIES ARE BEING DISTORTED BY THE PRESS, KUWAIT IS UNDER INTENSE PUBLIC SCRUTINY. THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SEEN AS ACTING LIKE THEIR FORMER IRAQI OCCUPIERS.

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING
WITH RED ADAIR

- I am pleased you stopped by. I want to hear a completely candid assessment from you of what's going on inside Kuwait, first on the fire fighting, but also on reconstruction and development.
- Your remarks were pretty tough on the Hill yesterday. I gather you're still having problems getting the right equipment in and water supplies. What seems to be the problem? Is there anything we can do to help?
- Is the equipment you need available but just delayed in transit? If you had it, would it speed up getting the job any?
- Are there enough people available for this effort? I understand Kuwait has decided to hire several foreign firefighting companies, including from Iran, to help out. Will that speed things up or only further complicate your efforts?
- You also said yesterday that the fires won't be out for four to five years. We have seen more optimistic estimates, and I understand more well fires have already been put out than was originally anticipated. I'd be interested in hearing your rationale on why this effort will take so long.

- I also wanted to ask you about reports of human rights abuses inside Kuwait. I don't know if you can comment on this or not, but it is a matter of growing concern here.
- I have made it clear to His Highness the Amir, that while some of these stories are being distorted by the press, Kuwait is under intense public scrutiny. They can't afford to be seen as acting like their former Iraqi occupiers.

PARTICIPANTS

The President

Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs

Robert M. Gates, Assistant to the President and Deputy for
National Security Affairs

Red Adair

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: 24 LOG # 4385
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG 24 A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Ken Hill	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>A</u>
Bill Sittmann	<u>2</u>	<u>copy</u>	
Bob Gates	<u>3</u>	<u>APNSA Has Seen</u>	
Brent Scowcroft		<u>Pres. 6/12</u>	
Bill Sittmann			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>WA 6/12</u>	<u>AFA</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>5</u>		<u>N</u>

91 JUN 12 PK 18

A = Action **I = Information** **D = Dispatch** **R = Retain** **N = No further Action**

cc: VP Sununu Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9104385

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 SCOWCROFT
002 PRESIDENT
002

Z 91061217 FWD TO PRES FOR INFORMATION
Z 91061218 FOR INFORMATION
X 91061218 NOTED BY PRES

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9104385
RECEIVED: 12 JUN 91 11

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: SCOWCROFT

DOC DATE: 12 JUN 91
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KUWAIT

AP

PERSONS: ADAIR, RED

SUBJECT: TALKERS FOR PRES MTG W/ RED ADAIR ON 12 JUN

ACTION: NOTED BY PRES

DUE DATE: 15 JUN 91

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: CHARLES

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
CHARLES
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSMEM

CLOSED BY: NSJEB

DOC 2 OF 2

UNCLASSIFIED