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
June 12, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH:  RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM:  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 RSC told me they were told "no b.p. was necessary" for this late-added event. This did not come from our 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?

-- 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.
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: 34  LOG # 4385
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _______  SYSTEM PRS NSC INT
BYPASSED WW DESK: _______  DOCLOG 24 A/O _______

SEQUENCE TO  HAS SEEN  DISPOSITION

Ken Hill
Bill Sittmann
Bob Gates
Brent Scowcroft
Bill Sittmann
Situation Room
West Wing Desk
NSC Secretariat

APNSA Has Seen
Pres. 6/12

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:
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TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: SCOWCROFT

KEYWORDS: KUWAIT

PERSONS: ADAIR, RED

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

ACTION: NOTED BY PRES

STAFF OFFICER: CHARLES

FILES: WH

DUE DATE: 15 JUN 91

STATUS: C

LOGREF:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

CHARLES

NSC CHRON

CODES:

COMMENTS:

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OPENED BY: NSMEM CLOSED BY: NSJEB DOC 2 OF 2

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