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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 4, 1991

*BS*

Dear Congressman Lagomarsino:

I am writing in response to your letter of September 27 concerning the President's meeting with the Amir of Kuwait on October 1. Let me assure you that the President fully supports the process of political reform in Kuwait, and so stated to the Amir. Moreover, in his public statement at the conclusion of the meeting with the Amir, the President said, "I fully endorse Kuwait's endeavors to expand political participation and look forward to watching this process develop in the freest possible atmosphere."

Let me also assure you that the U.S. government is working in close consultation with the Kuwaiti authorities to address the issues of political pluralism that you raised in your letter. As your letter noted, I believe cooperation between the U.S. government and the National Republican Institute for International Affairs on this issue has been excellent. We intend that this cooperation continue.

Sincerely,



Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino  
Chairman  
National Republican Institute  
for International Affairs  
1212 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 850  
Washington, D.C. 20005

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

7199

October 2, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: BRUCE RIEDEL

SUBJECT: Response to Congressional Inquiry on Kuwaiti  
Amir's Visit

Natl Sec Advisor  
has seen

SIGNED

Congressman Robert J. Lagomarsino, as Chairman of the National Republican Institute for International Affairs, wrote the President urging him to raise a number of issues related to political liberalization during the President's meeting with the Amir of Kuwait on October 1, 1991. Senator Richard Lugar and Congressman David Dreier co-signed the letter. In your reply, you underscore the President's determination to support the Amir's intent to hold parliamentary elections in October 1992 in the freest possible atmosphere and note that the President raised this with the Amir during his visit.

Concurrences by: Ginny Dampley

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to the National Republic Institute for International Affairs at Tab I.

Attachments

- Tab I Letter to the National Republican Institute for International Affairs
- Tab II Letter from the National Republican Institute for International Affairs

Response to Cong Inquiry on Kuwait

National Security Council  
The White House

PROOFED BY: [Signature] LOG # 7199  
URGENT NOT PROOFED: \_\_\_\_\_ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT  
BYPASSED WW DESK: \_\_\_\_\_ DOCLOG: MBM A/O \_\_\_\_\_

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
<u>1</u> Ken Hill	<u>1</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>A</u>
Bill Sittmann	_____	_____	_____
Bob Gates	<u>2</u>	_____	_____
Brent Scowcroft	_____	_____	_____
Bill Sittmann	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>	<u>WA 10/4</u>	<u>D</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

cc: VP Sununu Other \_\_\_\_\_

Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

APNSA Has Seen  
DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

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NOV 10 1999

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9107199

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 HAASS  
002 SCOWCROFT  
003

Z 91093015 APPROPRIATE ACTION  
Z 91100218 FOR SIGNATURE  
X 91100419 SCOWCROFT SGD LTR

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# National Republican Institute for International Affairs

Republican Programs of International Political Development

7199

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27 September, 1991

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the National Republican Institute for International Affairs has been working with the democratic forces in Kuwait throughout the past year. We have been to Kuwait, held a conference in Washington in which Ambassador Al Sabah participated, and are beginning a series of seminars in Kuwait on party building and legislator training. We have kept in close contact with the Department of State, the National Security Council, the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait and from NRIIA's point of view, the cooperation we have received from all three has been absolutely superb.

It is in regard to the latest conversation between Bruce Riedel of the NSC and Meg Thompson of NRIIA that we are writing to you to reinforce certain concerns regarding the current political situation in Kuwait which we believe you share:

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*President*

-There is still censorship of the press in Kuwait. No election can be declared "free and fair" without a free press in operation throughout the time before an election. The Emir has called for elections next October, and if he wishes for the international community to recognize these elections, there must be a free press in existence as soon as possible.

-We know that the Emir has stated publicly that he will consider allowing women to vote. We would like to strongly encourage this step be taken before next year's elections.

-The issue of "second class citizens" being allowed to vote is understandably a great deal more complicated, but we certainly encourage the Emir to begin studying and discussing this issue with all sectors of the Kuwaiti society as soon as possible.

91 SEP 30 P 1. 58

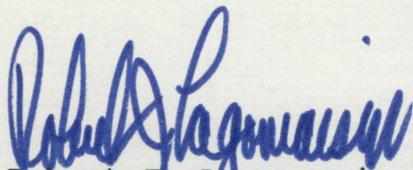
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Page 2

Since we are known as strong supporters of Operation Desert Storm and of Kuwait, we felt our views might be of assistance to you as you discuss these issues with the Emir in your next meeting. The NRIIA also will continue to hold discussions with the State Department, NSC, and Ambassador Gnehm so that our program is fully coordinated with our overall goals for greater political pluralism and stability in the region.

Thank you for your time, and, as you know, you continue to receive our full support and the Institute's cooperation.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Lagomarsino  
Member of Congress



Richard G. Lugar  
U.S. Senate



David Dreier  
Member of Congress

cc: Mr. Brent Scowcroft  
Assistant to the President  
National Security Affairs

Mr. James A. Baker, III  
Secretary of State

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NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9107199  
RECEIVED: 30 SEP 91 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LAGOMARSINO, ROBERT  
DREIER, DAVID  
LUGAR, RICHARD G

DOC DATE: 27 SEP 91  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KUWAIT  
MP

CO



PERSONS: SABAH, JABER

GNEHN, EDWARD W

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM REP LAGOMARSINO / SEN LUGAR & REP DRIER OF NATL  
REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE FOR INTL AFFAIRS RE KUWAITI ELECTIONS

ACTION: APPROPRIATE ACTION DUE DATE: 03 OCT 91 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS LOGREF:

FILES: WH NSCP: CODES:

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NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9107199  
RECEIVED: 30 SEP 91 15

TO: LAGOMARSINO, ROBERT

FROM: SCOWCROFT

DOC DATE: 04 OCT 91  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KUWAIT  
MP

CO  
WH STAFF SECRETARY

PERSONS: SABAH, JABER

GNEHN, EDWARD W

SUBJECT: SCOWCROFT REPLY TO REP LAGOMARSINO RE KUWAIT AMIR VISIT

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 03 OCT 91

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

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