**INCOMING**

**DATE RECEIVED:** MARCH 11, 1992

**NAME OF CORRESPONDENT:** THE HONORABLE LEE H. HAMILTON

**SUBJECT:** FORWARDS COPY OF LETTER FROM BERNARD HOYER REGARDING HONORING THE AMERICANS INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE OIL WELL FIRES IN KUWAIT

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**COMMENTS:** WRITER IS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

**ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS:** MAIL

**MEDIA:** L

**INDIVIDUAL CODES:** 1230

**MAIL USER CODES:** (A) (B) (C)

*ACTION CODES:*

*DISPOSITION*

*OUTGOING*

*CORRESPONDENCE:*

*TYPE RESP=INITIALS*

*OF SIGNER*

*CODE = A*

*COMPLETED = DATE OF*

*OUTGOING*

* *

**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.**
Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your letter to the President of February 28, 1992 in which you forwarded a constituent's proposal that the White House recognize the contribution of Americans to fighting the oil fires in Kuwait. Like you, we are indeed very proud of the role Americans played in putting out the fires set by Saddam's retreating army. Last November, when the last fire was quenched in Kuwait, the White House issued a statement saluting "the brave men and women who met this historic challenge." I am enclosing a copy of the statement which highlighted the role played by Americans in this international struggle against ecological terrorism.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Europe
and the Middle East
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure
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Enclosure
TO: HAMILTON, LEE H

FROM: SCOWCROFT

KEYWORDS: KUWAIT, CO, OIL, NCO

PERSONS: BOYER, BERNARD J

SUBJECT: SCOWCROFT REPLY TO REP HAMILTON RE KUWAIT

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTR

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

FILES: WH

DUE DATE: 30 MAR 92

STATUS: C

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

LAMPLEY

NSC CHRON

RIEDEL

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY [Signature] DATE 4/10 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSMEM CLOSED BY: NSWEA DOC 3 OF 3

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**DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:**

**COMMENTS:**
March 26, 1992

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BREN'T SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: BRUCE O. RIEDEL

SUBJECT: Response to Congressman Hamilton on Kuwait

Congressman Hamilton forwarded to the President a constituent's letter proposing the White House acknowledge the role played by Americans in putting out the oil fires started by Iraq in Kuwait. In your reply to the Congressman you note the White House issued a statement honoring the role played by the firefighters from all countries in this endeavor last November and enclose a copy for the Congressman's use in responding to his constituent.

Concurrences by: Virginia Lampley, Eric Melby

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab I to Congressman Hamilton.

Attachments

Tab I  Reply to Congressman Hamilton
Tab II  Letter from Congressman Hamilton
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Rome, Italy)

For Immediate Release November 6, 1991

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

Today we celebrate with the people and the Government of Kuwait as they complete a major step along the road to recovery. The extinguishing of the last of Kuwait's burning oil wells represents a remarkable achievement. In less than nine months, a unique international coalition capped nearly 700 wells, reversing Saddam's cruel efforts to achieve with sabotage what he could not do with his military--the destruction of Iraq's peaceful neighbor and the fouling of an entire region in an act of mass ecological terrorism.

Upon the liberation of Kuwait last March, the President directed U.S. agencies to come to Kuwait's assistance in tackling the disaster perpetrated by Saddam's retreating army. 752 of the country's 1037 oil wells had been damaged and 610 were burning. Working closely with the Government of Kuwait, the United States lent vital support in engineering, transport and other areas--support which was critical to the success in extinguishing the blazing wells. We are delighted to have been partners in every phase of the firefighting effort. We are particularly proud that three of the first four teams on the ground in March were American. It was these teams that laid the groundwork for the success that followed. American teams capped over half of the damaged wells in the effort that grew eventually to include firefighters from 28 countries.

We share Kuwait's joy and salute the brave men and women who met this historic challenge. We support Kuwait's demand for just compensation by Iraq for these and other war-related damages and we remain determined to stand with Kuwait and others against Saddam and his policies.

#  #  #
February 28, 1992

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

Dear Mr. President,

I attach correspondence I have had with Bernard Boyer of Holland, Indiana regarding his suggestion that Americans involved in the historic fight against the oil well fires in Kuwait be honored.

I appreciate your consideration of Mr. Holland's suggestion. American leadership in this fight should certainly be recognized and remembered. I am also bringing this matter to the attention of the Kuwaiti Embassy.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Lee H. Hamilton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East
Holland, In.
February 7, 1992

Congressman Lee Hamilton
House Office Building
WA. D.C. 20515

Dear Sir;

This letter deals with the oil fires in Kuwait, and the very courageous men who fought and conquered them.

They were featured in the 1991 August issue of National Geographic, and also on T.V.

However, generally speaking, these brave men faced a greater challenge and danger than did the majority of our troops..., the unexploded, hidden, land mines, hellish fires, lakes of oil, a dark, polluted atmosphere, blowing sand, and initially, a lack of water and equipment.

They were always faced with the possibility of being blown up by their own explosives, or incinerated by the searing heat of the fires.

I think these people are entitled to national recognition and honor, bestowed by our president. After all, the Olympians, basketball and football champions have been invited to the White House and honored. And they did not face life-threatening situations!

Would you please suggest this national honoring to the president for me? I will be most grateful.

Respectfully,

Bernard J. Boyer
7th and Iowa
Box 204
Holland, In. 47541
Ph. 812-536-3961
March 16, 1992

Dear Congressman Hamilton:

Thank you for your recent note to the President with which you enclosed a letter from your constituent, Mr. Bernard Boyer, recommending that the workers who extinguished the oil fires in Kuwait be honored.

We appreciate your bringing Mr. Boyer's suggestion to our attention. I have shared your letter with several of the President's advisors for their review and consideration.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

NEC:JHH:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for direct response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Scheduling Office - FYI
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