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ID# 348933

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO085

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 08, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JOHNNY JOHNSON

SUBJECT: REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN CONDUCTING BUSINESS
IN KUWAIT

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JAMES BAKER		ORG	92/09/08		C 92/09/08
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY		RAA	92/09/08 19		A 92/9/23
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /

RL

23

COMMENTS: ENCLOSURE

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
CS MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                       *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        *                       *                       *
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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.



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

23 September 1992

Mr. Johnny Johnson
President & CEO
Johnson Marketing Company
1249 Marketing Company
Chicago, Illinois 60651

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Department of State has referred your letter of August 31, concerning your efforts to purchase crude oil from Kuwait, to me for reply. Unfortunately, at this time, I cannot be any more forthcoming than I was in my August 13 letter to you. However, I am working with the U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait concerning your problem. I will contact you with the results of my efforts.

I note your determination to continue to work on this problem, and I wish you success in developing relationships in Kuwait.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. Helland", written over a horizontal line.

George A. Helland, P.E.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Export Assistance

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

SEPTEMBER 14, 1992

TO: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 348933

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED AUGUST 31, 1992

TO: JAMES BAKER

FROM: MR. JOHNNY JOHNSON
PRESIDENT/CEO
JOHNSON MARKETING COMPANY
1249 NORTH LAVERGNE AVENUE
CHICAGO IL 60651

SUBJECT: REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN CONDUCTING BUSINESS
IN KUWAIT

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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JOHNSON MARKETING CO.

JOHNNY JOHNSON
President/CEO

1249 N. Lavergne Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60651
Telephone: (312) 379-0127 • Fax: (312) 379-0309

DOE

August 31, 1992

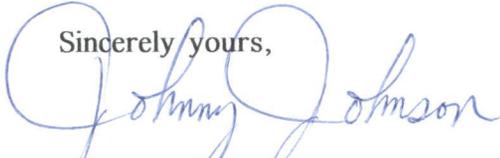
The Honorable James Baker
Chief of Staff to the President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Baker:

I am writing to request your assistance in my endeavor to conduct business in Kuwait. I have communicated with members of the President's Administration (please see enclosed letters).

I humbly look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,


Johnny Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
ORM OPTICAL DISK NETWORK

ID# 348933

Hardcopy pages are in poor condition (too light or too dark).

Remainder of case not scanned.

Oversize attachment not scanned.

Report not scanned.

Enclosure(s) not scanned.

Proclamation not scanned.

Incoming letter(s) not scanned.

Proposal not scanned.

Statement not scanned.

Duplicate letters attached - not scanned.

Only table of contents scanned.

No incoming letter attached.

Only tracking sheet scanned.

Photo(s) not scanned.

Bill not scanned.

Resolution not scanned.

Comments:

X

JOHNSON MARKETING CO.

JOHNNY JOHNSON
President/CEO

1249 N. Lavergne Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60651
Telephone: (312) 379-0127 • Fax: (312) 379-0309

August 27, 1992

Mr. Richard K. McKee
Director of Arabian
Peninsula Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. McKee:

Thank you very much for your letter dated August 19, 1992.

It was never my desire to give the impression that I was asking the U.S. Government to negotiate with the Government of Kuwait on my behalf. When I spoke of not having the means to hire a lobbyist to lobby the White House on my behalf. I was only speaking in terms of lobbying the White House to insure that justice was done in this case.

You have gotten the official version from the Government of Kuwait, regarding the sell of crude oil. I am sure that there is a law in place in Kuwait that prohibits the Kuwait Petroleum Company, from selling crude oil to private businessmen. That law allows Kuwait the flexibility to sell crude oil to some businessmen, and not to others. When it comes to conducting business with selected businessmen Kuwait can, and often does bend that law, herein lies the injustice.

The Government of Kuwait is indeed selling crude oil to private businessmen. I have been to Kuwait, I have seen with my own eyes what they are doing over there. To ask me to believe otherwise, is to ask me not to believe what I saw. Not to mention, that a senior U.S. Embassy official, other businessmen engaged in the buying and selling of Kuwait crude, and a credible Arab Organization have all confirmed my claim. When I speak about hiring a lobbyist to lobby the White House, his job would be to bring the White House the unofficial version of what the Government of Kuwait is actually doing regarding selling crude to private businessmen.

I would like to take a minute to tell you about an experience I once faced, I have faced many but this one comes to mind.

In 1954 the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision in the Brown versus the Board of Education case. The court said that education in America must be separate but equal. The official version of said law was that education in America was equal. The unofficial version, and the reality was, that education in America was not equal, far from it. Good people, well meaning people, and upright citizens in the neighborhood enforced that law. As a result of what well meaning, and good citizens did in the name of the official version of that law. I and millions of other Black Americans across the South spent 12 years in a school system that was anything but equal. But we protested against that law. We marched in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and other places until that law was repealed.

With all due respect to you, I know you mean well in providing information to me regarding the purchase of crude oil in Kuwait, and I thank you. But history has thought me a lesson that I will never forget. It has thought me to fight on, and if I fight long enough, hard enough, and loud enough someone will hear me, and understand me, and justice will come.

X

JOHNSON MARKETING CO.

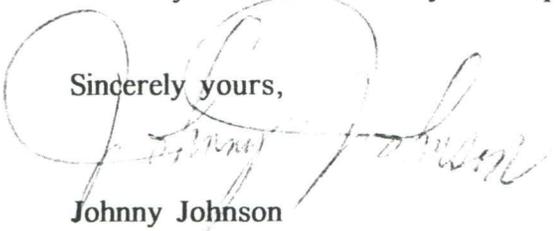
JOHNNY JOHNSON
President/CEO

1249 N. Lavergne Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60651
Telephone: (312) 379-0127 • Fax: (312) 379-0309

The U.S. State Department has the resources to insure that justice is done in this case. I sincerely hope you will join with me to bring about equality in this matter.

I humbly look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Johnny Johnson", written over a large, light-colored circular scribble.

Johnny Johnson

X

JOHNSON MARKETING CO.

JOHNNY JOHNSON

President/CEO

August 18, 1992

1249 N. Lavergne Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60651
Telephone: (312) 379-0127 • Fax: (312) 379-0309

Mr. George A. Helland, P.E.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Export Assistance

Dear Mr. Helland:

Thank you very much for your letter dated August 13, 1992. However, it failed to address my major concern.

I visited Kuwait on an International Trade Mission in February 1992. I found that American businessmen were exporting crude oil from Kuwait and selling it in other markets. I inquired about the possibility of me doing the same. The businessmen to whom I spoke informed me that it is very difficult to do, and that I must get someone within the current Administration to speak to the Kuwait Government on my behalf.

I made a request to the Kuwait Government to purchase 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day to be sold on the open market. The Kuwait Government stated that it does not sell crude oil to private businessmen. The statement given by the Kuwait Government is a misleading one. My basic question is, why would the Government of Kuwait take steps to mislead me?

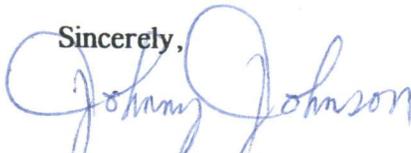
While in Kuwait, I was informed by a senior US Embassy official that the Kuwait Government does indeed sell crude oil to private businessmen. I spoke off the record with a credible Arab Organization. The person to whom I spoke assured me that the Kuwait Petroleum Company does sell crude oil to private businessmen.

Mr. David A. Jensen has advised me to work with a local agent in Kuwait to accomplish my goal. The position taken by the Kuwait Government in my case, makes it impossible to work with a local agent.

The American way is to provide freedom and justice for all. I would like very much for that economic justice to include me. Because the issue of justice is involved, I find it very difficult to give up on this case. I hope you will join with me to bring about justice in this matter.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Johnny Johnson

cc: The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

19 August 1992

Mr. Johnny Johnson
Johnson Marketing Co.
1249 Lavergne Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60651

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Your letter of July 30, 1992 to President Bush has been forwarded to our office for response. I am sorry that you have been obliged to write to the President again. I hope that this letter will be responsive to your inquiry.

I believe that you may have been misled concerning the role of the U.S. government in promotion of American commercial interests abroad. Promotion of American business is one of the highest aims of the Executive branch, including the State Department. However, the U.S. government is not authorized to negotiate with a foreign government on behalf of private businesses. In other words, we cannot negotiate with the government of Kuwait for you.

We will, of course, be happy to do anything that we can to facilitate your doing business in Kuwait or any other country.

In that regard, I must point out to you that, despite what your sources may have told you, the Kuwait Petroleum Company does not work through brokers. We have confirmed this information and offer it to assist you.

If we, or the Embassy in Kuwait can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to contact our office directly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard K. McKee".

Richard K. McKee
Director of Arabian
Peninsula Affairs



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

13 August 1992

Mr. Johnny Johnson, President/CEO
Johnson Marketing Company
1249 Lavergne Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60651

Dear Mr. Johnson:

My memory told me we had discussed or corresponded about your problem with buying crude from Kuwait in the past. A search of my files didn't find anything about it, however, so I can only assume I have dealt with the same issue with another business.

Obviously, there is nothing the U.S. Government can do to force a foreign entity, whether private or public, to do business with any particular U.S. company. And although I am not a lawyer, I understand that there is nothing in Kuwaiti law that requires a seller to deal with all potential buyers. As I remember, that is how the previous company with this problem left it.

Possibly David Jensen's advice that you work with a local agent in Kuwait is the best approach. If one will take your account, it will be because he thinks he can make money on it. If he turns the opportunity down, it is probably because he thinks you will be unable to make a deal (the purchase).

Sincerely,

*Yes we have discussed this issue
before. J. Johnson*

George A. Helland, P.E.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Export Assistance

cc: David A. Jensen
Deputy Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3872
Washington, D.C. 20230