FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)
Series: Subject File - General
Scanned/Unscanned: Scanned

WHORM Category Code: FG999
WHORM Category Name: Federal Agencies, Proposed

Document Number: 234671
Alpha File Name:
DATE RECEIVED: MAY 01, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE LES ASPIN

SUBJECT: URGES THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS THAT RESULTED IN VICTORY IN THE WAR AGAINST IRAQ

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ROUTE TO:
OFFICE/AGENCY  (STAFF NAME)

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REFERRAL NOTE:

COMMENTS: SUGGESTS 3 MAIN GOALS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS REVIEW WITH AN OVERALL PERSPECTIVE THAT CUTS ACROSS MILITARY SERVICE LINES

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210

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

* ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *CORRESPONDENCE: *
* A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
* A-ANSWERED *C-COMPLETED *
* B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
* C-REFERRAL *OUTGOING *
* C-RESPONSE *
* D-DRAFT RESPONSE *
* IF-PUBLISH FACT SHEET *
* S-SUSPENDED *
* I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* *
* R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *
* S-FOR-SIGNATURE *
* X-INTERIM REPLY *

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.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
June 11, 1991

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter to the President regarding an independent commission to help us harvest the lessons of the Gulf War.

In principle I think this idea has a great deal of merit, but -- as you know -- Defense is already in the process of responding to a very comprehensive set of questions posed by Congress in the Supplemental Authorization Bill and an interim report is due in a few weeks. We really need to have the benefit of this effort before we can decide if an independent commission could make any significant, additional contribution.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Les Aspin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

<table>
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<td>Case Number 234671</td>
<td>6/5/91</td>
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<td>From Michael Hayden to Brent Scowcroft</td>
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<td>Re: Response to Congressman Aspin (1 pp.)</td>
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### Collection:

- **Record Group:** Bush Presidential Records
- **Office:** Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)
- **Series:** Subject File - C.F.
- **Subseries:**
- **WHORM Cat.:** FG999
- **File Location:** Case Number 234671

### Date Closed:

9/25/2007

### OA/ID Number:

00002-001

### FOIA/SYS Case #:

1998-0099-F

### Re-review Case #:

P-2/P-5 Review Case #:

### AR Case #:

MR Case #:

### AR Disposition:

MR Disposition:

### AR Disposition Date:

AR Disposition Date:

### RESTRICITION CODES

- **Presidential Records Act** - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]
  - P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
  - P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
  - P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
  - P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
  - P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
  - P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]
  - C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

- **Freedom of Information Act** - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]
  - (b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
  - (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
  - (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
  - (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
  - (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
  - (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
  - (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
  - (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.
June 5, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: ARNOLD KANTER

FROM: MICHAEL HAYDEN

SUBJECT: Response to Congressman Aspin

Les Aspin followed up his public call for a "strategic bombing survey" to assess the lessons of the Gulf War with a letter to the President advocating the same approach. Fred McClure has sent a copy of the Aspin letter to you for a direct reply.

There is great merit in what Aspin is suggesting. As he says, an independent body headed by civilians of impeccable reputation could do much to extract the right lessons from the war and reinforce the nation's commitment to a strong defense. Not unexpectedly, however, neither the Chairman nor Secretary Cheney want any "help" in shaping our future forces. A Presidential Commission, as Aspin is suggesting, could only be formed at White House insistence over their objections.

Right now DoD is answering a Congressional requirement to provide a comprehensive report on the conduct of the Gulf War. An interim reply is due on July 1. It will likely be perceived as a DoD "house document" and the Congressional tasking looks backward far more than it looks out to the future. Nonetheless, DoD is making an honest effort to answer the mail and our proposed response to Aspin recommends we await this report to see if any "bombing survey" is needed.

The draft note to Aspin is plain vanilla but, absent a decision to go forward with an independent commission, there is little more we should put in writing right now. Given the sensitivities of this issue, you may even be more comfortable discussing this privately with Aspin rather than responding in writing at all.

Concurrences by: Sandra Charles and Virginia Lampley.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Attachments
Tab I Proposed Letter to Congressman Aspin
Tab II Note from Fred McClure with Aspin Letter Attached
May 3, 1991

Dear Les:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President regarding the establishment of an independent commission to examine U.S. military operations that resulted in the success of Operation Desert Storm.

We appreciate your suggestion. Please know that I have shared your comments with several of the President's advisors on this matter so that they, too, are aware of your recommendations.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Les Aspin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:TSB:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for Direct Response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of Defense - FYI
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I believe you should consider appointing an independent commission to examine the planning and execution of U.S. military operations that resulted in victory in the war against Iraq. The Defense Department and its many components are deeply engaged in assessing various aspects of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. These will be valuable. But the nation needs a comprehensive, objective review from an overall perspective that cuts across service lines and is not bound to any one organizational approach.

The review should have three main goals. First, it should analyze the ingredients of our military success in the Gulf, including the contribution of specific military strategies, tactics, weapons and support capabilities to accomplishing our military objectives. Second, it should identify any weak spots in our preparations, planning and performance. Third, it should examine the likely relevance of the Persian Gulf experience to other conflicts to help ensure that we do not over-generalize from the specific circumstance of this war.

Your August 2, 1990, Aspen speech emphasized the changes in the world that have caused your administration to begin to rethink U.S. national military strategy. The Gulf war has provided the nation an opportunity to examine how to shape a strategy and develop a military posture that focuses on the regional conflicts you identify as a major concern in the future. The review I am suggesting is intended to take advantage of this opportunity.

An independent commission, possibly structured along the lines of the World War II U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, is a promising approach. It could initially report to the President
and the Congress on a classified basis and then to the American people in a clear and comprehensive report on the war.

If, as was the case with the Bombing Survey, the commission is headed by civilians of impeccable reputation and supported by talented, knowledgeable staff, its findings and conclusions will achieve a credibility with the Congress and the American people. I am certain that the result will reinforce the nation's commitment to a strong defense posture in the future.

Respectfully yours,

Les Aspin,
Chairman
TO: ASPIN, LES
FROM: SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ASPIN LTR

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTR
STAFF OFFICER: KANTER
FILES: WH

LOGREF:
NSCP:
CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION
FOR ACTION
FOR CONCURRENCE
CHARLES
HAYDEN
KANTER
LAMPLEY
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS:

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TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: ASPIN, LES

KEYWORDS: DESERT STORM, IRAQ

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMIS TO EXAMINE US MILITARY OPERATIONS THAT RESULTED IN SUCCESS OF OPERATION DESERT STORM

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT

DUE DATE: 24 MAY 91

STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION: HAASS

FOR CONCURRENCE: CHARLES, LAMPLEY

FOR INFO: GATES, HAYDEN, O'LEARY, ROSTOW, SCOWCROFT, WORKING

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY: 

DATE: 

BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSRCB 

CLOSED BY: 

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED
National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY:  
URGENT NOT PROOFED:  
BYPASSED WO DESK:  

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

SEQUENCE TO  
HAS SEEN  
DISPOSITION

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: