

**Original FOIA Number:** 1998-0099-F

**2nd FOIA Number:**

**3rd FOIA Number:**

**4th FOIA Number:**

**5th FOIA Number:**

# FOIA MARKER

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

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

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

**Document Number:** 234671  
**Alpha File Name:**

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TB

ID# 234671

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

FG999

J 780

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

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
FREDERICK MCCLURE	ORG	91/05/01	FM	A 91/05/03
NSCS:it 9900D	R	91/05/16	BSA	91/10/61
	I	91/05/17		
		/ /		/ /
		/ /		/ /
		/ /		/ /

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)

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

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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.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1991

Dear Mr. <sup>les</sup>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)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Memo	Case Number 234671 From Michael Hayden to Brent Scowcroft Re: Response to Congressman Aspin (1 pp.)	6/5/91	P-5	

**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

<b>Date Closed:</b> 9/25/2007	<b>OA/ID Number:</b> 00002-001
<b>FOIA/SYS Case #:</b> 1998-0099-F	<b>Appeal Case #:</b>
<b>Re-review Case #:</b>	<b>Appeal Disposition:</b>
<b>P-2/P-5 Review Case #:</b>	<b>Disposition Date:</b>
<b>AR Case #:</b>	<b>MR Case #:</b>
<b>AR Disposition:</b>	<b>MR Disposition:</b>
<b>AR Disposition Date:</b>	<b>MR Disposition Date:</b>

### RESTRICTION 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.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

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 or 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

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

**SIGNED** 3780

*Nat Sec Advisor  
has seen*

June 5, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THROUGH: ARNOLD KANTER *AK*  
FROM: MICHAEL HAYDEN *H*  
SUBJECT: Response to Congressman Aspin

*Brent: As we have discussed,  
if the President wants a  
Presidential Commission, he  
needs to let Sen. Cheney  
know. -- Arnie*

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

CHARLES E. ... FLORIDA  
G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY, MISSISSIPPI  
RONALD V. DELLUMS, CALIFORNIA  
PATRICIA SCHROEDER, COLORADO  
BEVERLY B. BYRON, MARYLAND  
NICHOLAS MAVROULES, MASSACHUSETTS  
EARL HUTTO, FLORIDA  
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GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII  
THOMAS H. ANDREWS, MAINE  
CHET EDWARDS, TEXAS

## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Washington, DC 20515

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS

LES ASPIN, WISCONSIN, CHAIRMAN

234671  
WILLIAM L. DICKINSON, ALABAMA  
FLOYD SPENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
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GARY A. FRANKS, CONNECTICUT

RUDY DE LEON, STAFF DIRECTOR

April 30, 1991

*Franklin*  
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.

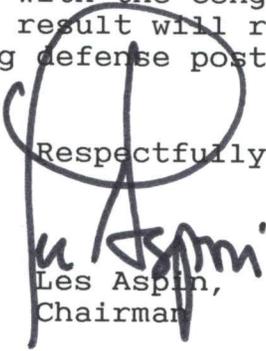
An independent commission, possibly structured along the lines of the World War II U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, is a promising approach. It could initially report to the President

The President  
April 30, 1991  
Page two

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

UNCLASSIFIED  
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9103780  
RECEIVED: 21 MAY 91 09

TO: ASPIN, LES

FROM: SCOWCROFT

DOC DATE: 11 JUN 91  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: DESERT STORM  
CO

IRAQ

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ASPIN LTR

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 24 MAY 91

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: KANTER

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

CHARLES  
HAYDEN  
KANTER  
LAMPLEY  
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISPATCHED BY RCA DATE 6/12 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSRCB

CLOSED BY: NSRCB

DOC 3 OF 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED  
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9103780

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 HAASS	Z 91052110	PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT
001	Z 91052310	ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 KANTER	Z 91052310	PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT
002 SCOWCROFT	Z 91060710	FOR SIGNATURE
003	X 91061210	SCOWCROFT SGD LTR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED  
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9103780  
RECEIVED: 21 MAY 91 09

TO: PRESIDENT

Annie  
Kanter

FROM: ASPIN, LES

DOC DATE: 30 APR 91  
SOURCE REF: 234671

KEYWORDS: DESERT STORM  
CO

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Response to Cong Aspin

National Security Council  
The White House

PROOFED BY: RND

LOG # 3780

URGENT NOT PROOFED: \_\_\_\_\_

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT

BY PASSED WW DESK: \_\_\_\_\_

DOCLOG PR A/O \_\_\_\_\_

*J. Hill*  
Ken Hill

SEQUENCE TO

HAS SEEN

DISPOSITION

Bill Sittmann

1

K

A

Bob Gates

2

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Brent Scowcroft

ARNSA Has Seen

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Bill Sittmann

\_\_\_\_\_

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Situation Room

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\_\_\_\_\_

West Wing Desk

3

VP 6/4

D

NSC Secretariat

4

\_\_\_\_\_

D

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:

RECEIVED  
91 JUN 7 11: 51

01 MAY 3 10: 18

SECRETARY  
RECEIVED



RECEIVED  
SECRETARY

31 MAY 7 AIO: 19