Original FOIA Number: 1998-0099-F

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WHORM Category Code: FO003-02
WHORM Category Name: Mutual Security

Document Number: 253819
Alpha File Name:
THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 15, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE SHI'ITE MOSLEM COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN IRAQ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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REFERRAL NOTE: NSC 9105489

COMMENTS:  

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230 ___ ___  

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

* ACTION CODES: * DISPOSITION  
* OUTGOING  
* *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED  
* A-ANSWERED  
* *C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL  
* B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL  
* *D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED  
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* *S-FOR-SIGNATURE*  
* S-FOR-SIGNATURE*  
* *X-INTERIM REPLY*  
* 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.
August 12, 1991

Dear Congressman Dingell:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the plight of the Shia of southern Iraq. He, too, is distressed by the fact that Saddam Hussein is diverting relief shipments and causing widespread destruction of holy Islamic sites.

We have discussed both issues in recent meetings with representatives of Iraqi Shia opposition groups and in the United Nations. It is very clear that Saddam Hussein has not complied with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Through the United Nations, we are urging the Iraqi government to cooperate fully with humanitarian agencies to allow immediate access to all those in need of assistance in this region.

This Administration is prepared to do more as the situation requires. We continue to work closely with other governments and international agencies to coordinate humanitarian assistance efforts. We have drawn the attention of the Government of Iraq to the fact that U.N. Security Council Resolution 688 applies to the entire country and to all Iraqis. U.S. policy will continue to emphasize our vision of a democratic, tolerant Iraq which respects the rights of all its citizens, including Shia, and lives at peace with its neighbors.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable John D. Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
July 30, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: BRUCE O. RIEDEL

SUBJECT: Letter to Congressman John D. Dingell

Congressman Dingell wrote the President (Tab H) expressing concern that the Shia in southern Iraq have not been given the same humanitarian attention as the Kurds in the north have received. His letter also points out that holy places are being damaged and Shia religious figures imprisoned and abused. He requests that the President expeditiously provide emergency assistance to the Shia community.

Attached at Tab I is a reply to a letter from Congressman Dingell (Tab II). It thanks the Congressman for his letter and informs him about how the President is responding to Iraq’s inequitable distribution of humanitarian relief to the Shia in southern Iraq. Fred McClure sent an interim response on the President’s behalf (Tab III).

Concurrence by Mike Anducacos

RECOMMENDATION

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

Attachments
Tab I Reply to Congressman Dingell
Tab II Letter from Congressman Dingell
Tab III Interim response from Fred McClure
Dear Congressman Dingell:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the plight of the Shia of southern Iraq. I, too, am distressed by the fact that Saddam Hussein is diverting relief shipments and causing widespread destruction of holy Islamic sites.

We have discussed both issues in recent meetings with representatives of Iraqi Shia opposition groups and in the United Nations. It is very clear that Saddam Hussein has not complied with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Through the United Nations, we are urging the Iraqi government to cooperate fully with humanitarian agencies to allow immediate access to all those in need of assistance in this region.

This Administration is prepared to do more as the situation requires. We continue to work closely with other governments and international agencies to coordinate humanitarian assistance efforts. We have drawn the attention of the Government of Iraq to the fact that U.N. Security Council Resolution 668 applies to the entire country and to all Iraqis. U.S. policy will continue to emphasize our vision of a democratic, tolerant Iraq which respects the rights of all its citizens, including Shia, and lives at peace with its neighbors.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable John D. Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
July 30, 1991

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: BRUCE O. RIEDELL

SUBJECT: Letter to Congressman John D. Dingell

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum for the President that forwards a draft reply (Tab A) to a letter (Tab B) from Congressman Dingell. It thanks the Congressman for his letter and informs him about how the President is responding to Iraq’s inequitable distribution of humanitarian relief to the Shia in southern Iraq. Fred McClure sent an interim response (Tab II) on the President’s behalf.

Concurrence by Mike Andricos

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memo to the President
Tab A Reply to Congressman Dingell
Tab B Letter from Congressman Dingell
Tab II Interim response from Fred McClure
ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BREN'T SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: Reply to Congressman John D. Dingell

Purpose

To thank Congressman Dingell for his letter concerning the plight of Iraqi Shia and to reassure him that you and the international community are intent on seeing that the humanitarian needs of these innocent civilians are met.

Background

Congressman Dingell wrote to you (Tab B) expressing concern that the Shia in southern Iraq have not been given the same humanitarian attention as the Kurds in the north have received. His letter also points out that holy places are being damaged and Shia religious figures imprisoned and abused. He requests that you expeditiously provide emergency assistance to the Shia community.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached reply at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Reply to Congressman Dingell
Tab B Letter from Congressman Dingell

cc: Vice President
    Chief of Staff
National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: 54 LOG # 5489
URGENT NOT PROOFED: 
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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:
National Security Council
The White House

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cc: VP, Sununu, Other

Should be seen by: ________________________ (Date/Time)

COMMENTS

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:
Dear Congressman Dingell:

Thank you for your letter concerning the plight of the Shia of southern Iraq. I too am distressed by the fact that Saddam Hussein is diverting relief shipments and causing widespread destruction of holy Islamic sites.

We have discussed both issues in recent meetings with representatives of Iraqi Shia opposition groups and in the United Nations. It is very clear that Saddam Hussein has not complied with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Through the United Nations we are urging the Iraqi government to cooperate fully with humanitarian agencies to allow immediate access to all those in need of assistance in this region.

My Administration is prepared to do more as the situation requires. We continue to work closely with other governments and international agencies to coordinate humanitarian assistance efforts. We have drawn the attention of the Government of Iraq to the fact that U.N. Security Council Resolution 688 applies to the entire country and to all Iraqis. U.S. policy will continue to emphasize our vision of a democratic, tolerant Iraq which respects the rights of all its citizens, including Shia, and lives at peace with its neighbors.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John D. Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
July 16, 1991

Dear John:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President expressing your support for providing emergency assistance to the Shiite Moslem community in southern Iraq in light of continued atrocities in that country.

We appreciate being advised of your concern for the welfare of the Shia people in Iraq. Please know that I have shared your comments with President Bush. I have also provided your remarks to the President's national security and foreign policy advisors 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 John D. Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:TBA:

bcc: w/ copy of inc to NSC - for Direct Response
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of State - FYI
bcc: w/ copy of inc to Dept. of Defense - FYI
The Honorable George Bush  
The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Moslem community of my district to urge you to mitigate the desperate plight of the Shi'ite Moslem community in southern Iraq.

Operation Provide Comfort was an expedient and vigorous response by your Administration to check the alarming deprivation of Kurdish refugees in the North. Now, however, our attention must turn toward the South, where the once valiant Shia community has become a pillaged and enfeebled, disease-ridden people.

Saddam Hussein is presently systematically ravaging the shrines and Holy cities of Najaf and Karabla, and has imprisoned and denied medical attention to the Shi'ite Moslem global religious leader Grand Ayatullah Al Khoei. These abuses are an affront to the sacred religion of the Shia people.

Given the recent display of President Hussein's renewed belligerence, the international community should insist upon the protection of the Holy cities and demand the immediate release and treatment of the Grand Ayatullah. On behalf of my constituents, and the 250 million Shias worldwide, I request that you ask the United Nations Security Council to take austere action against this obdurate dictator.

Also, due to Allied bombing of electric power plants, the Shia community's water purification and sewage pumping systems have been severely disabled. Raw waste currently fills the streets and flows unchecked into rivers used for drinking water. This pollution has spawned a host of infectious diseases, including typhoid, hepatitis, and meningitis. In addition, the Shias are afflicted with severe malnutrition.
July 12, 1991

The Honorable George Bush

Page 2

The Ba'ath government is not addressing these acute afflictions. Indeed, just as Hussein maliciously destroyed the Holy cities and incarcerated the Grand Ayatullah, his regime inflicts and perpetuates this suffering as well. It is reported that Hussein may actually be withholding available food supplies from the Shias, perhaps to avenge their fierce post-war opposition to his regime.

I understand that the U.S. Department of State is finalizing a proposal to provide emergency assistance to the Shia community of Southern Iraq. I urge you, Mr. President, to act expeditiously to end the offenses against the Islamic culture and provide essential relief for the impoverished and debilitated Shia people.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James Baker, Secretary of State
TO: DINGELL, JOHN D
FROM: SCOWCROFT

KEYWORDS: IRAQ
           CO

PERSONS: HUSSEIN, SADDAM

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LTR FM REP DINGELL RE PLIGHT OF SHIA OF SOUTHERN IRAQ

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTR

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

DUE DATE: 25 JUL 91
STATUS: C

FILES: WH
NSCP:

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COMMENTS:

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TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: DINGELL, JOHN D

KEYWORDS: IRAQ
REFUGEES

PERSONS: HUSSEIN, SADDAM

SUBJECT: LTR FM REP DINGELL URGING PRES TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO SHIITE MOSLEM COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT
DUE DATE: 25 JUL 91
STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS
LOGREF:

FILES: WH
NSCP:
CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION
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FOR INFO
GATES
SCOWCROFT

COMMENTS:

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OPENED BY: NSMEM CLOSED BY: DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED
DATE RECEIVED: JULY 15, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE SHI'ITE MOSLEM COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN IRAQ AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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*S-FOR-SIGNATURE        *                *
*X-INTERIM REPLY        *                *
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The President
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The Honorable George Bush

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July 12, 1991

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With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

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