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: ND001
WHORM Category Name: Aircraft, Military

Document Number: 322321
Alpha File Name:
THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 16, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE CLAIBORNE PELL

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS AN EXTENSION OF ALLIED AIR COVER UNDER "OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT", WHICH IS DUE TO EXPIRE JUN 92, TO CONTINUE PROTECTION OF THE KURDS AND SHI'A MUSLIMS IN IRAQ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY</th>
<th>(STAFF NAME)</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>DISPOSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ACT CODE YY/MM/DD</td>
<td>DATE DD/MM/DD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TYPE</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| NICK CALIO | NSC | ORG 92/04/16 | NC | 9204/16 |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | |
| 99 DOS | | | |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | |
| 99 DOD | | | |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | |

COMMENTS: Letters sent to all signers.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 5 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210 1220 ...

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

******************************************************************************

**ACTION CODES:**  
* ACTION GENERATED  
* A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  
* C-COMMENT/RECOM  
* D-DRAFT RESPONSE  
* F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  
* I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*  
* R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY*  
* S-FOR-SIGNATURE  
* X-INTERIM REPLY  

******************************************************************************

**DISPOSITION:**  
* OUTGOING  
* CORRESPONDENCE:  
* TYPE RESP=INITIALS  
* CODE = A  
* COMPLETED = DATE OF  

******************************************************************************

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.
TO: PELL, CLAIBORNE
   ET AL

FROM: SCOWCROFT

KEYWORDS: IRAQ
           TURKEY

PERSONS: HUSSEIN, SADDAM

SUBJECT: SCOWCROFT RESPONSE TO SENATOR PELL ET AL RE SITUATION IN IRAQ

ACTION: SCOWCROFT SGD LTRS

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

FILES: WH

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
   NSC CHRON
   RIEDEL

COMMENT:

DISPATCHED BY Date 5/20 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSMEM CLOSED BY: NSJSL

DOC 3 OF 3
National Security Council
The White House

PROOLED BY:  

LOG #: 3445

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT
DOCLOG A/IO

Ken Hill
Bill Sittmann
Jon Howe
Brent Scowcroft
Bill Sittmann
Situation Room
West Wing Desk
NSC Secretariat

SEQUENCE TO  HAS BEEN  DISPOSITION

1  K  A

APNSA Has Seen

A = Action  I = Information  D = Dispatch  R = Retain  NI = No further Action

cc: VP  Skinner  Other

Should be seen by: (Date/Time)

COMMENTS

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:
TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: PELL, CLAIBORNE
GORE JR, ALBERT
WOFFORD, HARRIS

KEYWORDS: IRAQ
TURKEY

PERSONS: HUSSEIN, SADDAM

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM SEN PELL ET AL RE CURRENT SITUATION IN IRAQ W/ REGARD
TO SAFETY OF KURDS IN NORTHERN IRAQ & SHI'A MUSLIMS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT
DUE DATE: 08 MAY 92
STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS
LOGREF:

FILES: WH
NSCP:
CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION
HAASS

FOR CONCURRENCE
LAMPLEY
RIEDEL

FOR INFO
HOLL
HOWE
SCOWCROFT

COMMENTS: ____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

DISPATCHED BY ________________________ DATE ____________ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSMEM CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
May 26, 1992

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President and I fully share your concerns about the current situation in Iraq which you enumerated in your letter of April 14, 1992. As we have said publicly on many occasions, United States policy toward Iraq seeks to maintain international sanctions until there is a change in leadership in Baghdad and a new government prepared to live at peace both with Iraq's neighbors and with the Iraqi people. We fully support United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 which calls on Iraq to cease repression of all Iraqi citizens.

As you noted, the coalition's Provide Comfort air cover has been critical to preventing an Iraqi attack on the areas of northern Iraq under Kurdish control. We are proud of the role coalition forces have played in curtailing the suffering of the population of northern Iraq. Let me assure you that we and our allies in Operation Provide Comfort have already begun consultations on extending the mandate for the presence with the Turkish leadership.

Our concern about the suffering of the Iraqi people naturally extends to the Shia population of the south as well. We have been engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations about expanding the U.N. presence in that area for some time and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225
The White House
Washington

May 26, 1992

Dear Senator Wofford:

The President and I fully share your concerns about the current situation in Iraq which you enumerated in your letter of April 14, 1992. As we have said publicly on many occasions, United States policy toward Iraq seeks to maintain international sanctions until there is a change in leadership in Baghdad and a new government prepared to live at peace both with Iraq's neighbors and with the Iraqi people. We fully support United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 which calls on Iraq to cease repression of all Iraqi citizens.

As you noted, the coalition's Provide Comfort air cover has been critical to preventing an Iraqi attack on the areas of northern Iraq under Kurdish control. We are proud of the role coalition forces have played in curtailing the suffering of the population of northern Iraq. Let me assure you that we and our allies in Operation Provide Comfort have already begun consultations on extending the mandate for the presence with the Turkish leadership.

Our concern about the suffering of the Iraqi people naturally extends to the Shia population of the south as well. We have been engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations about expanding the U.N. presence in that area for some time and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

[Brent Scowcroft's signature]

The Honorable Harris Wofford
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1992

Dear Senator Jeffords:

The President and I fully share your concerns about the current situation in Iraq which you enumerated in your letter of April 14, 1992. As we have said publicly on many occasions, United States policy toward Iraq seeks to maintain international sanctions until there is a change in leadership in Baghdad and a new government prepared to live at peace both with Iraq’s neighbors and with the Iraqi people. We fully support United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 which calls on Iraq to cease repression of all Iraqi citizens.

As you noted, the coalition’s Provide Comfort air cover has been critical to preventing an Iraqi attack on the areas of northern Iraq under Kurdish control. We are proud of the role coalition forces have played in curtailing the suffering of the population of northern Iraq. Let me assure you that we and our allies in Operation Provide Comfort have already begun consultations on extending the mandate for the presence with the Turkish leadership.

Our concern about the suffering of the Iraqi people naturally extends to the Shia population of the south as well. We have been engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations about expanding the U.N. presence in that area for some time and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Brent
Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable James M. Jeffords
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225
Dear Senator Biden:

The President and I fully share your concerns about the current situation in Iraq which you enumerated in your letter of April 14, 1992. As we have said publicly on many occasions, United States policy toward Iraq seeks to maintain international sanctions until there is a change in leadership in Baghdad and a new government prepared to live at peace both with Iraq's neighbors and with the Iraqi people. We fully support United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 which calls on Iraq to cease repression of all Iraqi citizens.

As you noted, the coalition's Provide Comfort air cover has been critical to preventing an Iraqi attack on the areas of northern Iraq under Kurdish control. We are proud of the role coalition forces have played in curtailing the suffering of the population of northern Iraq. Let me assure you that we and our allies in Operation Provide Comfort have already begun consultations on extending the mandate for the presence with the Turkish leadership.

Our concern about the suffering of the Iraqi people naturally extends to the Shia population of the south as well. We have been engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations about expanding the U.N. presence in that area for some time and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.  20510-6225
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1992

Dear Senator Gore:

The President and I fully share your concerns about the current situation in Iraq which you enumerated in your letter of April 14, 1992. As we have said publicly on many occasions, United States policy toward Iraq seeks to maintain international sanctions until there is a change in leadership in Baghdad and a new government prepared to live at peace both with Iraq’s neighbors and with the Iraqi people. We fully support United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 which calls on Iraq to cease repression of all Iraqi citizens.

As you noted, the coalition’s Provide Comfort air cover has been critical to preventing an Iraqi attack on the areas of northern Iraq under Kurdish control. We are proud of the role coalition forces have played in curtailing the suffering of the population of northern Iraq. Let me assure you that we and our allies in Operation Provide Comfort have already begun consultations on extending the mandate for the presence with the Turkish leadership.

Our concern about the suffering of the Iraqi people naturally extends to the Shia population of the south as well. We have been engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations about expanding the U.N. presence in that area for some time and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.  20510-6225
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
May 26, 1992

Paul

Dear Senator Simon:

The President and I fully share your concerns about the current situation in Iraq which you enumerated in your letter of April 14, 1992. As we have said publicly on many occasions, United States policy toward Iraq seeks to maintain international sanctions until there is a change in leadership in Baghdad and a new government prepared to live at peace both with Iraq’s neighbors and with the Iraqi people. We fully support United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 which calls on Iraq to cease repression of all Iraqi citizens.

As you noted, the coalition’s Provide Comfort air cover has been critical to preventing an Iraqi attack on the areas of northern Iraq under Kurdish control. We are proud of the role coalition forces have played in curtailing the suffering of the population of northern Iraq. Let me assure you that we and our allies in Operation Provide Comfort have already begun consultations on extending the mandate for the presence with the Turkish leadership.

Our concern about the suffering of the Iraqi people naturally extends to the Shia population of the south as well. We have been engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations about expanding the U.N. presence in that area for some time and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Brent

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Paul Simon
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225
Dear Senator Moynihan:

The President and I fully share your concerns about the current situation in Iraq which you enumerated in your letter of April 14, 1992. As we have said publicly on many occasions, United States policy toward Iraq seeks to maintain international sanctions until there is a change in leadership in Baghdad and a new government prepared to live at peace both with Iraq's neighbors and with the Iraqi people. We fully support United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 which calls on Iraq to cease repression of all Iraqi citizens.

As you noted, the coalition's Provide Comfort air cover has been critical to preventing an Iraqi attack on the areas of northern Iraq under Kurdish control. We are proud of the role coalition forces have played in curtailing the suffering of the population of northern Iraq. Let me assure you that we and our allies in Operation Provide Comfort have already begun consultations on extending the mandate for the presence with the Turkish leadership.

Our concern about the suffering of the Iraqi people naturally extends to the Shia population of the south as well. We have been engaged in a dialogue with the United Nations about expanding the U.N. presence in that area for some time and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225
May 6, 1992

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: 

RICHARD N. HAAS

FROM: BRUCE O. RIEDEL

SUBJECT: Response to Senator Pell on Iraq

Senator Pell and six colleagues wrote the President on April 14, 1992 to express concern about the situation in Iraq, especially Saddam’s repression of the Kurds and Shia. In your response, you reiterate our view that a change in leadership in Iraq is essential and respond positively to their specific requests that we seek extension of Provide Comfort and an expanded U.N. presence in southern Iraq.

Concurrences by: Virginia Mapple and Jane Holl

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab I.

Attachments
Tab I Letter to Senator Pell
Tab II Letter from Senator Pell
April 27, 1992

Dear Senator Pell:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President, cosigned by six of your colleagues, supporting an extension of Operation Provide Comfort beyond its June expiration date.

We appreciate being advised of your concern that the Kurds and Shi'a Muslims require additional assistance and protection. I have shared your comments with President Bush. In addition, I have provided copies of your letter to several of the President's advisors in this matter for their review.

Thank you again for writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

NEC:JHH:

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
April 14, 1992

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

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our deep concern over the current situation in Iraq, particularly regarding the safety of the Kurds in northern Iraq and the Shi‘a Muslims in southern Iraq.

Recently, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on mass killings in Iraq under the Saddam Hussein regime. The Committee heard graphic and convincing reports of indiscriminate killings of Iraqi Kurdish civilians, particularly during the past several years. The testimony, based on official Iraqi documents and on tests conducted by forensic specialists, confirms the Committee’s own research in this area. The available evidence suggests that the total number of Iraqi Kurdish deaths and disappearances may be as high as 200,000 to 300,000, or roughly 5 percent of the Iraqi Kurdish population. This information indicates that Iraqi actions against the Kurds are tantamount to an official policy of genocide.

The Kurds have effectively established a liberated zone in most of the traditionally Kurdish areas of northern Iraq. However, it is only the threat of allied military retaliation that protects this liberated zone from renewed Iraqi attack. And, from what we know, a renewed attack threatens the Kurdish people with extermination.

We therefore strongly support an extension of allied air cover under Operation Provide Comfort, currently set to expire at the end of June. We also hope the United States will urge the government of Turkey—whose support is a critical element of Operation Provide Comfort’s success—to support an extension of the mandate.

In addition, we hope that the United States will make an effort to address the situation of the Shi‘a population in Iraq. While the plight of the Kurds is becoming increasingly prominent, relatively little attention has been paid to the fate of the 13,000,000 Shi‘a Muslims who have
struggled under Saddam Hussein's rule. Last year, following the uprising in the south, many of the Shi'a combatants, their civilian supporters, and Iraqi army deserters were forced into the southeastern marshlands at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. There they have been subject to harsh retribution from Iraqi forces, leading to numerous deaths and causing serious refugee problems. Accordingly, we would urge the United States to examine possibilities for expanding the United Nations' presence in southern Iraq and extending appropriate international protection to the Shi'a.

We appreciate your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Harris Wofford
James M. Jeffords
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Albert Gore, Jr.
Paul Simon
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our deep concern over the current situation in Iraq, particularly regarding the safety of the Kurds in northern Iraq and the Shi’a muslims in southern Iraq.

Recently, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on mass killings in Iraq under the Saddam Hussein regime. The Committee heard graphic and convincing reports of indiscriminate killings of Iraqi Kurdish civilians, particularly during the past several years. The testimony, based on official Iraqi documents and on tests conducted by forensic specialists, confirms the Committee’s own research in this area. The available evidence suggests that the total number of Iraqi Kurdish deaths and disappearances may be as high as 200,000 to 300,000, or roughly 5 percent of the Iraqi Kurdish population. This information indicates that Iraqi actions against the Kurds are tantamount to an official policy of genocide.

The Kurds have effectively established a liberated zone in most of the traditionally Kurdish areas of northern Iraq. However, it is only the threat of allied military retaliation that protects this liberated zone from renewed Iraqi attack. And, from what we know, a renewed attack threatens the Kurdish people with extermination.

We therefore strongly support an extension of allied air cover under Operation Provide Comfort, currently set to expire at the end of June. We also hope the United States will urge the government of Turkey—whose support is a critical element of Operation Provide Comfort’s success—to support an extension of the mandate.

In addition, we hope that the United States will make an effort to address the situation of the Shi’a population in Iraq. While the plight of the Kurds is becoming increasingly prominent, relatively little attention has been paid to the fate of the 13,000,000 Shi’a muslims who have
struggled under Saddam Hussein's rule. Last year, following the uprising in the south, many of the Shi'a combatants, their civilian supporters, and Iraqi army deserters were forced into the southeastern marshlands at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. There they have been subject to harsh retribution from Iraqi forces, leading to numerous deaths and causing serious refugee problems. Accordingly, we would urge the United States to examine possibilities for expanding the United Nations' presence in southern Iraq and extending appropriate international protection to the Shi'a.

We appreciate your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

Albert Gore, Jr.

Harris Wofford

Paul Simon

James M. Jeffords

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Holloway</td>
<td>8/19/82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Made a copy RN