

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 001-07

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 30, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JOE VOLK

SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
SHIRLEY GREEN		ORG	90/08/30	SG	A 90/08/30
REFERRAL NOTE: SMG-163 - SENT					
REFERRAL NOTE: _____					
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

MI 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.

5M67-163

August 24, 1990

President George Bush
United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President George Bush:

However much we disagree with the U.S. military response to the Gulf crisis, we greet you as a friend, and our prayers go with you and your colleagues as you determine the next steps the United States will take. Our community of Quakers is deeply concerned for the people of Kuwait and Iraq, and we care deeply about the plight of the civilians detained in Kuwait and Iraq.

For 300 years Quakers have rejected participation in war because our experience of God leads us to answer to that of God in every person. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) represents 26 yearly meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in the United States. While no one Quaker organization can speak for all Friends, the FCNL has been a registered Quaker lobby in the nation's capital since 1943 to represent views of Friends who unite with our General Committee's policies.

We condemn, without condition, the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. We have appealed to President Saddam Hussein to immediately comply with UN Resolutions 660 and 664, which call for immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of the Kuwaiti government, for immediate and intense negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to resolve their disputes, and for the protection of third nations' civilians and their freedom to travel.

We understand that your decision to deploy U.S. forces in the Gulf was provoked by the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait and the possible threat to Saudi Arabia. We also understand that your effort to enforce the UN sanctions with U.S. military force is intended to uphold the international community's condemnation of Iraq and to persuade Iraq to comply with the UN Security Council demand for immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of its government. We are aware that you believe these decisions were necessary to deter further Iraqi aggression and serve the best interests of the people of the United States. Nevertheless, we must protest

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We seek a society with equity and justice for all
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We seek an earth restored....

that these military actions are likely to bring about unnecessary bloodshed and to hinder a peaceful and effective resolution of the conflict.

We support the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 660, 661, 662, and 664, which put into place non-military initiatives to oppose Iraq's invasion and occupation. We urge that all U.S. responses to this crisis submit to that UN framework. No U.S. military initiatives are called for by these UN actions, and the United States should not take any military action.

We appeal to you to halt the deployment of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf. We call on you to begin the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from that area. The UN international, mandatory and comprehensive sanctions should be given time to work. The United States should uphold and submit to the UN processes for resolving this conflict, including waiting upon the UN to call for and implement any enforcement actions.

The U.S. military responses in the region are preempting the possibility of the two superpowers--the Soviet Union and the United States--cooperating with the world community of nations to resolve a dangerous international conflict through UN and non-military means. Continuing U.S. military initiatives may squander this historic post-Cold War opportunity to rebuild a world order based on common security and international cooperation, rather than on deadly deterrence. It is not too late to begin to de-escalate the military conflict and to resort to other available means for resolving this conflict through the United Nations.

We appeal to you to assure that all U.S. responses to this current crisis respect Article 54 of the 1977 First Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which prohibits the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. Your vigorous upholding of this provision might have the effect of upholding the other articles of the First Protocol. In particular, Article 51 prohibits the use of civilians as shields or hostages. Even though only about 60 countries have ratified this protocol to date, we believe it carries the weight of international law and consensus. Therefore, foodstuffs should be exempted from the implementation of UN sanctions.

We are deeply concerned also that the United States government is using this crisis as a reason to transfer arms or other military equipment to the Gulf region. Though arms transfers are seen as "symbols of friendship", they increase the likelihood of widespread destruction. They neither create nor sustain security or stability. As the changes in Iran of a decade ago show, once the arms are there, the United States will have little or no control over how they are used. Sending of arms at any time is a mistake, but the transfer of arms during this crisis is extremely shortsighted.

Some of your comments to the press indicate that your administration may use the Iraq-Kuwait crisis as a rationale for higher levels of U.S. military spending and ending all hope of a "peace dividend." But we should not contemplate a military occupation of the Gulf region as a substitute for our diminishing military presence in Europe. The Cold War is still over. Alternative energy policy, not the flexing of military muscle, will protect U.S. interests in the Gulf crisis.

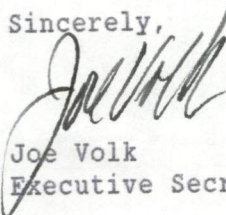
We believe that U.S. demands for Iraq to comply with United Nations resolutions to withdraw from occupied Kuwait may well ring hollow to the ears of many throughout the Arab world, unless the United States and Israel bring renewed energy, commitment and determination to respect and implement UN Resolution 242. Now is the time for the United States to pursue at the most senior diplomatic levels a dialogue with the PLO, as the representative of the Palestinian people. Now is the time for the United States to assert, with the government of Israel, U.S. policy for the implementation of the land for peace formula.

An old saying goes, "The first casualty of war is truth." We recognize that the government of Iraq made many assurances which later proved untrue. We object to these deceptions. Similarly, we are troubled by your use of inflammatory rhetoric in your appeals to the American people to support the U.S. military initiatives. You have said that Saddam Hussein is a Hitler, implied that Iraq is like pre-World War II Germany about to take over the world, and that the United States military intervention is just like the U.S. entrance into the Second World War.

What Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi government have done is dangerous and unjustifiable, but he is not Adolf Hitler and Iraq is not Nazi Germany. The U.S. military intervention may turn out to be much more like the Vietnam intervention. Furthermore, this rhetoric may well turn the Iraq-Kuwait dispute into an Arab-U.S. conflict in the Gulf. The United States would be unwise to provide conditions which nurture that kind of conflict. We believe that hyperbolic rhetoric by senior members of the Administration in this crisis is unwise and may have unintended, dangerous consequences.

We urge upon you temperate comment on the situation, concerted U.S. support for and participation in the UN processes, quick action to stop U.S. military intervention, and all possible steps to realize the historic post-Cold War opportunities for new non-military approaches to resolving international disputes.

Sincerely,



Joe Volk
Executive Secretary

P.S. Enclosed for your information are copies of our letter to President Saddam Hussein and the communication to the United Nations in which we joined regarding sanctions and food.

cc: Secretary General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar
Chairperson Marjatta Rasi, UN Security Council Committee to
Monitor the Crisis in the Gulf
President Saddam Hussein, c/o The Embassy of Iraq

August 24, 1990

President Saddam Hussein
c/o Ambassador H.E. Mohamed al-Maskat
Embassy of Iraq
1801 P Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear President Saddam Hussein:

We greet and address you as a fellow human being and therefore a friend. Our community of Quakers are deeply concerned for the people of Iraq. We pray and work actively for a negotiated, non-military resolution to the conflict in the Gulf. We pray that God's wisdom will prevail and all creatures of God will be spared the suffering of war.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has represented Quaker views on U.S. policy and international affairs in Washington, D.C., since 1943. Quakers have exercised conscientious objection to war for more than 300 years.

We oppose the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait and call on you to immediately comply with the UN Resolutions 660, 662 and 664 to immediately withdraw and restore the Kuwait government, to rescind the annexation of Kuwait and to release the detained civilians and leave diplomatic missions in Kuwait in place.

We understand that your invasion and occupation of Kuwait were taken by you for reasons which you believe serve the best national interests of Iraq. Nevertheless, the Iraqi invasion and military occupation of Kuwait are acts of military aggression. As we condemned the United States military invasion of Grenada and its military invasion and occupation of Panama, we also oppose Iraq's invasion and military occupation of Kuwait. We may understand your motives--whether we accept them or not--but we must unequivocally condemn this aggression.

As we have called upon the United States, Israel, the Palestinians, and all Arab States to comply with United Nations Resolution 242 to end the occupation of the territories taken by Israel in 1967, now we appeal to you to immediately comply with United Nations Resolutions 660 and 664 by withdrawing from Kuwait and restoring the former government of Kuwait and by releasing the detained civilians. This action should be followed by immediate and intense negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait under UN or Arab League auspices to resolve these bilateral disputes.

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We appeal to you to immediately comply with United Nations Resolution 662 by rescinding your declaration of the eternal merger of Kuwait and Iraq. Embassies and consular offices in Kuwait, as well as in Iraq, should remain open and available to their citizens now residing in Kuwait.

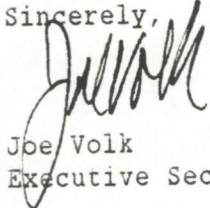
We appeal to you to comply with the provisions of Article 51 of the First Protocol (1977) to the Geneva Conventions (1949) by immediately releasing all detained civilians and by promising not to use civilians as shields or hostages.

We believe the First Protocol carries the weight of international law and consensus, even though only 60 some nations have ratified it to date. Furthermore, your affirmation of this protocol would lend weight to its other articles. In particular, Article 54 prohibits the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. We have communicated our concern to the United Nations Security Council and to the United States government that article 54 be respected.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait warrants and received the unequivocal condemnation of the world community of nations. We hope that the non-military initiatives taken under the United Nations authority will protect the world from Iraq's aggression and simultaneously protect Iraq from overwhelming international military retaliation. We have appealed to the U.S. government not to undertake military actions against Iraq but, rather, to exercise restraint and to support the United Nations' processes.

We appeal to you to act quickly now to respond affirmatively to the United Nations' call for Iraq's immediate compliance with the Security Council resolutions.

Sincerely,



Joe Volk
Executive Secretary

P.S. Enclosed for your information are copies of our letter to President George Bush and the communication to the United Nations regarding food.

cc: Secretary General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar
Chairperson Marjatta Rasi, UN Security Council Committee to
Monitor the Crisis in the Gulf
President George Bush, The White House, United States of America

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Robert Z. Alpern, Chair
Corinne Whitlatch, Consultant

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Unitarian Universalist Association
of Congregations

United Church of Christ
Office for Church in Society

United Methodist Church
General Board of Church & Society
General Board of Global Ministries:
Women's Division
World Division

August 17, 1990

TO: Marjatta Rasi, Chair
Security Council Committee
to Monitor Mandatory Sanctions Against Iraq
United Nations, New York

FROM: Churches for Middle East Peace

RELIGIOUS COALITION OPPOSES THE USE OF FOOD AND MEDICINE AS WEAPONS OF WAR

Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of 14 national religious bodies, urges that basic foods and medicine should be exempted from any embargo.

Economic sanctions are appropriate to force Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and an abandonment of threats to other nations in the region, but such sanctions must not be allowed to become a siege against the Iraqi or Kuwaiti people that endangers the life or health of the civilian population.

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers is a new member organization not listed on the letterhead.