

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 170745

INCOMING

CO 001-07

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 30, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. ALEC MCKENZIE

SUBJECT: OFFERS HIS COMMENTS REGARDING FOREIGN MEDIA
COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT DURING THE CRISIS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JOHN SUNUNU		ORG	90/08/30		C 90/08/30
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

*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 *			*

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.

176745



August 23, 1990

Mr. John Sununu
Chief of Staff
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Sununu:

En route back to New York from Sydney, Australia, I caught this editorial by Sandy Grady in the *Honolulu Advertiser* on August 17. It confirmed complaints I had heard from Australians who resent seeing pictures of the President in his vacation speedboat while he's tasking them to send their sons to the Gulf.

How about picturing him at his working desk in Maine or in conference on the crisis instead? And energy conservation really does make sense, doesn't it? Perhaps a presidential call for conservation is due.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alec Mackenzie' in a cursive script.

R. Alec Mackenzie
President

RAM/cdb
Enclosure:

Newspaper Article

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
ORM OPTICAL DISK NETWORK

ID# 170745

- ☐ Hardcopy pages are in poor condition (too light or too dark).
- ☐ Remainder of case not scanned.
- ☐ Oversize attachment not scanned.
- ☐ Report not scanned.
- ☒ Enclosure(s) not scanned.
- ☐ Proclamation not scanned.
- ☐ Incoming letters(s) not scanned.
- ☐ Proposal not scanned.
- ☐ Statement not scanned.
- ☐ Duplicate letters attached - not scanned.
- ☐ Only table of contents scanned.
- ☐ No incoming letter attached.
- ☐ Only tracking sheet scanned.
- ☐ Photo(s) not scanned.
- ☐ Bill not scanned.

Comments:

#6!! HUSSEIN!

IT'S PRONOUNCED
'SADDAM', MOMMY!



Bush ducking the 'O' word

WASHINGTON — George Bush, no stranger to locker-room profanity, seems to have a thing about using the dreaded "O" word.

You'd think "oil" was a three-letter obscenity.

Standing on the Pentagon steps for a pep talk to military brass, Bush rattled the rhetorical saber. He explained our Middle East crusade with the usual buzz words:

"Fighting aggression... Keeping our solemn word... Standing by our friends."

Although stopping short of comparing himself to Winston Churchill, Bush painted Saddam Hussein as a two-bit Hitler. He called him a liar who used poison gas. He talked of "atrocities" and "brutality."

Finally, almost as a footnote, Bush mentioned the real reason he's sending paratroopers and aircraft carriers to the Middle East.

Black gold.

"OUR JOBS, our way of life, our freedoms would suffer if the world's great oil reserves fell into the hands of one man," said Bush in a burst of candor.

Maybe there's a reason why Bush cloaks America's huge military adventure behind noble blather while ducking the "O" word. If he crassly admits we were shipping 50,000 troops — maybe 250,000 — to defend the flow of oil, he'd have to ask home-front sacrifices.

Maybe he'd ask Americans to drive 55 or cut back air conditioning during the Saddam crisis.

Or ask for a national energy policy, something missing during the Reagan-Bush era when dependence on imported oil and gorillas like Saddam rose to 50 percent.



SANDY GRADY

Washington-based columnist.

Sure, in his first anti-Saddam tirade, Bush threw in a half-hearted pitch for conservation. "Every American must do his or her part."

Next day the tube carried unreassuring pictures of Bush tooling off his Maine coastal home in his super-hot speedboat, "Fidelity," a nautical guzzler slurping 25 gallons an hour.

Oops. Lousy photo op for a Conservation President.

TRUE, BUSH alone isn't at fault for our gas-greedy '80s. Hey, the stuff was cheap. Detroit pushed big Slush-omatics that dropped gas mileage by 4 percent. The Reagan crew had no interest in solar, wind or geothermal energy. Let the good times roll.

After all, everybody guffawed when Jimmy Carter called energy conservation "the moral equivalent of war." Now that Iraq and Kuwait's 4 million daily barrels have disappeared, Carter doesn't seem a Nervous Nellie.

Nobody expects 1973's gas lines to reappear soon. But Bush's massive show of firepower and flesh against Saddam asks a moral question:

If we can gamble blood, sweat and tears of GIs in the Saudi desert, shouldn't we start shaking the 16 million-barrel-a-day addiction that sent them there?

James Watkins, energy secretary

of a bureaucracy noted for lack of energy, tootled a faint bugle call for car-driving troops at home.

"We ought to do prudent things to minimize the impact of what's going on over there," said Watkins, insisting there's no gas crisis — yet.

Watkins' genteel advice to U.S. motorists: Maintain proper tire pressure to save fuel; stick with speed limits; join car pools; in two-car families, use the most fuel-efficient car.

OK, TAME STUFF to anybody remembering three-gallon-a-week rationing of World War II. But Watkins said skimpier driving, plus gasohol production, would save 270,000 barrels a day and cancel Saddam's invasion.

That's smarter than succumbing to Big Oil fear mongers who'd use the Iraq blowup to drill off U.S. beaches and on federal lands. Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, sneaked such a midnight oil grab before Congress left town.

If Congress is serious, it will pass Nevada Sen. Richard Bryan's bill for cars to average 40 miles per gallon by 2000. Why can't a country that can produce Stealth bombers make cars that can evade gas pumps?

Nobody expects Bush to ask Americans to emulate the Japanese — switch air conditioners to 82 degrees and cut out lights — and sweat in the dark.

But if he can put American kids in a 120-degree hellhole, call up reserves and spend billions on an anti-Saddam bash, Bush should be more upfront about the "O" word.

Oh, yeah, Mr. President: Stick that speedboat in drydock.