

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

P51-12B sig

C0001-07

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 12, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. LESTER LANIN

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES VIEWS ON SADDAM HUSSEIN AND THE
MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SHIRLEY GREEN		ORG	90/09/12		C 90/09/14
Cothom	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	90/09/14	CP2A	A 90/09/28
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:F INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4690

MI 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.

SEP 14 1990

REV
[Signature]

September 28, 1990

Dear Mr. Lanin:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding the situation in the Persian Gulf. I understand your concerns, and I appreciate your suggestions.

I have been heartened by the number of other countries -- including Arab nations -- that have joined the international effort to defend Saudi Arabia against aggression. Out of this historic period of cooperation, a new world order can emerge. I want you to know that I will do my best to bring about a timely and peaceful resolution to this matter of grave importance to our nation and to our world.

Barbara joins me in sending our best wishes.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH A

Mr. Lester Lanin
Lester Lanin Orchestras
157 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

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DRAFT OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

DRAFT DATE: REDOPT 9/21	COMPUTER DRAFT DOCUMENT TITLE: Lanin
INITIALS: GB/ <i>bn</i> <i>sg</i>	CC:
CLEAR WITH:	WHCC:
ENCLOSURES, SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:	

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Sincerely,

GB

SEP 24 1990

PALM BEACH

LOS ANGELES

DALLAS

CHICAGO

LESTER LANIN ORCHESTRAS

157 WEST 57TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019

(212) 265-5208

September 11, 1990

S. Green

President Bush
White House
Washington, DC
Fax No. 202-456-2416

Dear Mr. President:

Possibly Saddam Hussein can be bargained with in the Persian Gulf crisis and he should be. The process would start with the condition that Saddam doesn't get anything that he couldn't have gotten by peaceful means. But, given all that has happened you also must now build that proverbial golden bridge over which Saddam Hussein can retreat and this latter element doesn't appear to be on the agenda yet.

The West, including the action of the United Nation's Security Council, which includes the Soviet Union has given the appearance of escalating demands on Bagdad in a way that makes an acceptable settlement unattainable.

We know Saddam Hussein has blood on his hands. We know he is a dangerous tyrant, but he isn't a Hitler. He's already indicated that he can be flexible by the recent arrangement with Iran. But most of the negotiations so far have been through the media.

What is urgently needed is for a competent negotiator to draw up a list of promises that could be made to the Iraqi leader in exchange for his willingness to pull his troops out of Kuwait and to release all of the hostages.

The list of proposals would need an endorsement from the UN Security Council. I believe frankly, that the man is now afraid that he will be bombed even if he does pull out of Kuwait.

Hussein is a classic bully, he's calculating, he understands and uses power. He must be shown there's no benefit to aggression. He must be shown that his best alternative to a negotiated agreement is only a continued blockade and possibly war. Of course, there is no certainty negotiation will work. However, it must be tried.

I suspect that Saddam wants economic concessions in return for any negotiated deal on his part. Economic moves on the part of the West can be perceived by Saddam to be just as threatening as military moves. From his point of view the United States conspired with the Saudis and Kuwait to knock the bottom out of oil prices. I have

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heard U.S. oil people argue the same point. Saddam may have thought he faced bankruptcy before he moved into Kuwait.

Equally important and part of the same problem is that the Arabs need to do their own decisionmaking. If we impose key decisions on them, we are just the latest Colonial Power. In this first post Cold War crisis, the whole third world is watching to see, since the Soviets are now weaker, whether the US will use the UN to impose its will on the rest of the world in particular the third world. Negotiations means identifying and meeting the discontent that fuels a crisis.

I see the world moving gradually away from balance of power politics toward actually resolving basic problems. The legitimate interest of the Iraq people must be considered, identified and if possible satisfied, if a negotiated solution is to be found. The ability to bring people together to seek peaceful resolutions through diplomacy is growing despite many tough regional problems in the world.

The cooperative approach involves not only recognizing that violence is ineffective but also seeing that all who have a stake in a problem ought to be part of the process of coming up with a solution. Iraq in attacking Kuwait acted against current codes of civilized behavior.

People see Iraq's invasion as an important test for Washington's ability to solve today's regional problems through the overriding standard that the basic needs of all parties in a region are important and must be identified and discussed.

All nations must be given the message that they themselves are empowered to solve their own problems.

May I quote our great Commander-In-Chief Dwight D. Eisenhower "I firmly believe that the future of civilization is absolutely dependent upon finding some way of resolving international differences without resorting to war".

With all good wishes to Mrs. Bush and your mother.

Yours sincerely,

Lester Lanin
Lester Lanin

LL:mp