

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 233894

00001-07

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE REVEREND HERBERT W. CHILSTROM

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

3772

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LEIGH ANN METZGER		ORG	91/04/29		C 9/05/01 TC
DOS Exec Sec	REFERRAL NOTE:				C 9/05/01
PL Metz	REFERRAL NOTE:				C 9/05/01
	REFERRAL NOTE:				C 9/05/01
	REFERRAL NOTE:				C 9/05/01
	REFERRAL NOTE:				C 9/05/01

COMMENTS: Bishop Childstrom heads the 5m+ member Evan. Lutheran Church in America - would appreciate a timely response touching on all points raised in letter (except issue of proclamation). Thank you - TC

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500

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

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	*OF SIGNER	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*CODE = A	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *		*OUTGOING	*
*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.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 233894

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE REVEREND HERBERT W. CHILSTROM

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**note: blue tracking sheet was missing - this is LAM's copy when letter was sent to DOS for draft - 6/10/91*

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LEIGH ANN METZGER		ORG	91/04/29		C 91/05/01
DOS Exec Sec			D 91/05/01		
NSC P101672		DJ	A 91/05/31	LM	A 91/06/06 DJ
Shirley Green					
Leigh Ann Metzger			A 91/06/10	A-LAM	A 91/06/10 06

COMMENTS: *Bishop Childstrom heads the 5m+ member Evan. Lutheran Church in America - would appreciate a timely response touching on all points raised in letter (except issue of proclamation). Thank you -*

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500

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

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	*OF SIGNER	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*CODE = A	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *		*OUTGOING	*
*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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 6, 1991

Dear Reverend Chilstrom:

On behalf of the President, thank you for your letter of April 25th regarding the Gulf conflict. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I must tell you in all frankness that the Administration disagrees with your basic premises about the United States' use of force to liberate Kuwait and the likelihood that sanctions and diplomacy would have induced Iraq to leave Kuwait.

The U.S. Government made extensive and exhaustive efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. Many organizations, including the Arab League and the European Community, and several individuals attempted to convince Saddam Hussein to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. Secretary of State James Baker held more than 200 meetings with foreign dignitaries, participated in 10 diplomatic missions, and made six appearances before the Congress, all devoted to resolving this crisis peacefully. He travelled more than 100 thousand miles to talk with, among others, members of the United Nations, the Arab League, and the European Community.

In early January, Secretary Baker flew to Geneva in an eleventh-hour attempt to find a peaceful solution to this crisis. There, he met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who refused to discuss an end to the occupation of Kuwait. Following that meeting, United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar made his second voyage to Baghdad in search of peace. He also found it impossible to convince Saddam Hussein to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 660 and subsequent resolutions by withdrawing from Kuwait. Saddam Hussein consistently rejected every attempt to mediate his withdrawal from Kuwait.

During the air war portion of the liberation of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein again demonstrated his indifference to the welfare of the Iraqi people, allowing them to live through the extreme rigors of war rather than loosen his grip on Kuwait. Even the effects of more than a month of intense aerial bombardment did not induce Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait, any more than the continuation of sanctions and diplomacy would have. It was only after the ground war commenced, and the coalition threatened to destroy his army, which forms the basis of his power, that Saddam Hussein finally faced reality and withdrew his forces from Kuwait.

The President did not make the decision to use force lightly. As President Bush said in his speech on January 28th, "No one wanted

war less than I did. No one is more determined to seize from the battle the real peace that can offer hope, that can create a new world order." In the aftermath of the Gulf War, the Administration will extend every effort to advance peace and stability to the Middle East. As the President said in his March 6th address to a joint session of Congress, "the war with Iraq is over. The quest for solutions to the problems of Lebanon, in the Arab-Israeli dispute, and in the Gulf must go forward with new vigor and determination. And I guarantee you, no one will work harder for a stable peace in the region than we will."

Thank you for writing the President on this topic.

Sincerely,



Leigh Ann Metzger
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

The Reverend Herbert W. Childstrom
Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

May 29, 1991

LD 233894
to DOS 9/05/10
to PL Metz
9/0 3772

MEMORANDUM FOR SHIRLEY GREEN

FROM: WILLIAM F. SITTMANN *W*
SUBJECT: Response to Reverend Chilstrom

Attached at Tab A is a response to Reverend Herbert Chilstrom's April 25 letter to the President (Tab B) for appropriate signature.

Attachments

Tab A Response to Chilstrom
Tab B Letter from Chilstrom

Blue tracking sheet missing —

Dear Reverend Chilstrom:

Thank you for your letter of April 25. I have been asked to respond for the President.

I must tell you in all frankness that I disagree with your basic premises about the U.S. ^{United States} use of force to liberate Kuwait and the likelihood that sanctions and diplomacy would have induced Iraq to leave Kuwait.

The U.S. Government made extensive and exhaustive efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. Many organizations, including the Arab League and the European Community, and several individuals attempted to convince Saddam Hussein to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. Secretary of State James Baker held more than 200 meetings with foreign dignitaries, participated in 10 diplomatic missions, and made six appearances before the Congress, all devoted to resolving this crisis peacefully. He travelled more than 100 thousand miles to talk with, among others, members of the United Nations, the Arab League and the European Community.

In early January, Secretary Baker flew to Geneva in an eleventh-hour attempt to find a peaceful solution to this crisis. There, he met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who refused to discuss an end to the occupation of Kuwait. Following that

meeting, United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar made his second voyage to Baghdad in search of peace. He also found it impossible to convince Saddam Hussein to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 660 and subsequent resolutions by withdrawing from Kuwait. Saddam Hussein consistently rejected every attempt to mediate his withdrawal from Kuwait.

During the air war portion of the liberation of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein again demonstrated his indifference to the welfare of the Iraqi people, allowing them to live through the extreme rigors of war rather than loosen his grip on Kuwait. Even the effects of more than a month of intensive aerial bombardment did not induce Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait, any more than the continuation of sanctions and diplomacy would have.

Saddam Hussein is the head of a dictatorial regime that is not concerned about the welfare of its people. It was only after the ground war commenced, ^{the Coalition} and ~~we~~ threatened to destroy his army, which forms the basis of his power, that Saddam Hussein finally faced reality and withdrew his forces from Kuwait.

The President did not make the decision to use force lightly. As President Bush said in his speech on January 28, "No one wanted war less than I did. No one is more determined to seize from the battle the real peace that can offer hope, that can create a new world order." In the aftermath of the Gulf War, the Administration will extend every effort to advance peace and

stability to the Middle East. As the President said in his March 6 address to a joint session of Congress, "the war with Iraq is over. The quest for solutions to the problems in Lebanon, in the Arab-Israeli dispute, and in the Gulf must go forward with new vigor and determination. And I guarantee you, no one will work harder for a stable peace in the region than we will."

Sincerely,

Reverend Herbert W. Chilstrom
Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins road
Chicago, IL 60631

NSC will check
& bring down
if they have it.
5-31-91

Brian from NSC
came

This is all NSC
had that we
didn't have —
no blue tracking
sheet —

*Blue Sheet
Missing*

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

9108460

'91 MAY-11 4:21 PM

MAY 10, 1991

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ATTN: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 233894

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 25, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: THE REVEREND HERBERT W. CHILSTROM
BISHOP
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA
8765 WEST HIGGINS ROAD
CHICAGO IL 60631

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



Office of
the Bishop

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631 • 312-380-2700
Cable: ELCA IL • Telex: 4900009321ELC • Fax: 1-312-380-1465

9108460

'91 MAY-11 4:21 PM

April 25, 1991

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I received your letter and a copy of the proclamation "For National Days of Thanksgiving." I give thanks for the safe return of most of our coalition forces. Yet, had timing made it possible to do so, I could not in good conscience have urged the more than 5 million members of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to observe these days, since for millions of people in the Persian Gulf region there is no "end of hostilities" in sight.

As you may know, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America urged you to employ sanctions for a longer period of time before initiating open warfare. As events continue to unfold in the Middle East, as the hundreds of Kurdish refugees perish daily in the mountainous border of Iraq, I remain convinced that this would have been the wiser path to follow.

Nevertheless, once the conflict began, we lent our full support to our men and women in the military. Our church alone provided more than 60 military chaplains to serve the tens of thousands of our own members who were involved in the Gulf War and to reach out to all who had a need for spiritual care. In the last several days, I have written letters to the parents of members of our church who lost sons during the conflict.

But while we were able to give full support to our military personnel, many of us questioned--and continue to question--the wisdom in the kind of military action that was taken in order to "resolve" the Middle East situation. I understand, of course, that you intended to take the road of high moral ground. Surely the atrocities perpetrated by the Iraqis against the Kuwaitis was unconscionable. In no way did we support Saddam Hussein and his despicable actions. Nevertheless, it is becoming increasingly clear that our lack of patience will, in the end, result in a multiplication of those same atrocities.

Furthermore, as reports begin to come back about the actions of our own military in those last hours of the war, we find ourselves appalled at the "turkey shoot" mentality that prevailed among some of our own people. When the final chapters of this war have been written, I believe that the guilt for tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths will hang heavy on the shoulders of our country.

I must tell you in all candor that as I move across the length and breadth of this nation in connection with my work, I find little joy in the "victory" in the Gulf.

The President of the United States/April 25, 1991/Page 2

Yes, we are grateful that so few of our own military personnel lost their lives in the war. Beneath the surface, however, is a deep anguish over what has happened and a lingering fear that we have made matters worse rather than better.

I realize that history is replete with examples of presidents who have called the nation to prayer and thanksgiving. In this instance, however, I believe that the most appropriate call would be for sober reflection, repentance, and a full commitment to peace and justice for all people in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Herbert W. Chilstrom", followed by a horizontal line.

Herbert W. Chilstrom
Bishop

HWC/mbf