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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

ND 017

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 03, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ALBERT MOKHIBER

SUBJECT: ASKS THE PRESIDENT TO ENSURE THAT THE ARAB
NATIONALS ARE ACCORDED ALL THE GUARANTEES OF
THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OTHER APPLICABLE
PROVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN KUWAIT

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
LISA BATTAGLIA		ORG	91/05/03	A-LB	91/05/07
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4800 4400

PL 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
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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1991

Dear Mr. Mokhiber:

On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your message about the situation in the Persian Gulf.

President Bush shares the deep concern and the anguish of all Americans over the brutal use of force and of the repression by the government of Iraq against Kurdish and other Iraqi civilians. The President has made it clear that, "We want the suffering of those refugees to stop, and in keeping with our nation's compassion and concern, we are massively helping." The United States has indeed issued the largest relief effort recorded in modern military history. It is understood that while the effort is unprecedented, the scale of the problem is even greater.

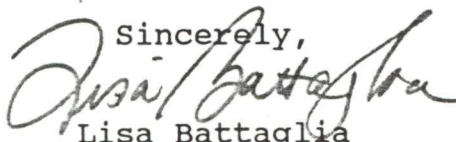
After consulting with our European partners and the United Nations Secretary General, President Bush announced a greatly expanded relief effort in which the U.S. military has established several temporary encampments in Northern Iraq where relief supplies are available and also there is adequate security for the Kurds by the U.S., British, and French air and ground forces. It is our hope that the responsibility for operating these facilities can be handed over to the United Nations and to international relief organizations.

The immediate goal of the international coalition, the liberation of Kuwait, has been achieved. The President believes that Saddam Hussein's leadership has been a tragedy for the Iraqi people and that they, along with the people of the region, would be better off under new Iraqi leadership. However, he has also determined that the best interest of the United States would not be served by intervening militarily in a protracted civil war stemming from long-standing enmity between Iraqi factions.

The United States and our coalition partners are committed to restoring stability to the Gulf region. In recently passing Resolution 687, the United Nations Security Council took the unprecedented steps of creating a force to monitor the legal border between Iraq and Kuwait and of providing a UN guarantee of that border. Once this observer force arrives, remaining coalition forces would be withdrawn from Iraqi territory. The resolution established a fund that would be set aside from Iraqi oil revenues to compensate Kuwait and others for damages; it also includes provisions that are designed to ensure that Iraq cannot rebuild its military to threaten anew the peace of the region, and it mandated that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction must be destroyed.

The Administration will continually monitor carefully the situation

in Iraq and to serve as a catalyst for stability in the region. The President appreciated your suggestions and the interest that prompted you to write.

Sincerely,


Lisa Battaglia
Special Assistant
Office of Public Liaison

Mr. Albert Mokhiber
American-Arab Discrimination
Committee
4201 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20008

235517

April 3, 1991

8. Battaglia

**American-Arab
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George Bush
President
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

This letter is written in our capacity as a non-governmental organization concerned about the protection of international human rights, especially those of civilians caught up in the recent war in the Persian Gulf.

Recent reports, including those of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International and Middle East Watch, have documented widespread human rights abuses against Kuwaitis by military units and individuals during the occupation.

More recently, there are similar reports of violence against civilians in Kuwait, primarily against Palestinian, Yemeni, Jordanian and other Arab nationals. Many of those rounded up, tortured or killed are accused of being collaborators with the Iraqi army.

As you know, alleged collaborators and prisoners of war, regardless of accusations of their involvement in atrocities, are entitled to various protections under international law which preclude acts of vengeance and retaliation against them. All those accused are entitled to due process of law and a fair trial.

Of equal concern are the individuals who have been detained solely on the basis of their national origin and as a result of war-generated ethnic hostility. Such detentions, especially of Palestinians, are reported to number in the hundreds.

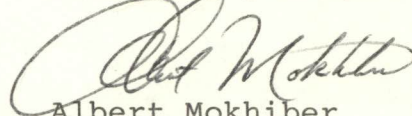
Therefore, as the U.S. is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions and other international accords, we ask that you act to ensure the



protection and due process rights of all
"protected persons," whether Kuwaiti civilians
and POWs in Iraq or citizens and non-citizens
of Kuwait, including Palestinians, Iraqis and
others. We ask that you ensure that they are
accorded all of the guarantees of the Geneva
Conventions and other applicable provisions of
international law.

Awaiting your prompt and favorable
reply, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Albert Mokhiber', written in a cursive style.

Albert Mokhiber
President