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Original OA/ID Number: 2721				
Document ID: 9902492				
Stack: V	Row: 46	Section: 4	Shelf: 3	Position: 1

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9902492
RECEIVED: 05 APR 99 20

TO: GILMAN, BENJAMIN A
HYDE, HENRY J

FROM: BERGER

DOC DATE: 17 MAY 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO

CO

PERSONS: DOBBINS

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REP GILMAN & HYDE RE AMB DOBBINS APPT

ACTION: BERGER SGD LTRS

DUE DATE: 16 APR 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BAKER

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

BAKER

NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY JP DATE 5/18 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 3 OF 3

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9902492

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 BAKER	Z 99040520 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
002 BERGER	Z 99051319 FOR SIGNATURE
003	X 99051807 BERGER SGD LTRS

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003	990517	GILMAN, BENJAMIN A
003	990517	HYDE, HENRY J

UNCLASSIFIED

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE**

5/14 11:31

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 2492
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG 2 A/O _____

TMA

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
RICE	<u>1</u>	<u>5/13</u>	<u>dit's done</u>
DAVIES	_____	_____	_____
KERRICK	<u>2</u>	<u>5/13</u>	_____
STEINBERG	<u>3</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
BERGER	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>5</u>	<u>EUK 5/17</u>	<u>X</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

CC:

99 MAY 13 PM 3:30

COMMENTS:

*Congressional correspondence
on James Robbins*

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

5/14 3 1
11

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 2492
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG 2 A/O _____

TMA

SEQUENCE TO INITIAL/DATE DISPOSITION

JACOBSON			
POWELL			
RICE	1	⑤ 5/13	done
DAVIES			
KERRICK	2	⑤ 5/13	
STEINBERG	3		
BERGER	4	⑤	
SITUATION ROOM			
WEST WING DESK	5	ENK 5/17	X
RECORDS MGMT.	6	⑤	→

A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

CC:

199 MAY 13 11 31 30

COMMENTS:

Congressional correspondence
on James Dobbins

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1999

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President asked me to respond to your letter regarding Ambassador Jim Dobbins, Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Kosovo and Dayton Implementation. While I appreciate the special trust and confidence you place in the President's Balkans policy team, I must respectfully disagree with the premise of your letter. Jim Dobbins retains the full confidence of the President, the Secretary of State and myself.

Ambassador Dobbins is an outstanding Foreign Service Officer -- one of the very best. His unique combination of analytical acuity and operational expertise were of tremendous assistance during his tenure on the NSC staff as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Inter-American Affairs. Among other things, Jim was central in bringing about a peaceful resolution to the border dispute between Peru and Ecuador, marshaling U.S. assistance for the victims of Hurricane Mitch, and raising U.S. cooperation with Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and the rest of Latin America to historic levels.

The allegations against Ambassador Dobbins were taken seriously and thoroughly investigated. As you know, the Department of Justice declined prosecution in the matter. The Department of State, after reviewing the Inspector General's report, determined that Ambassador Dobbins testified in good faith and did not intentionally mislead the Congress. The charge against Ambassador Dobbins was not sustained and no formal disciplinary action was taken; however, the Department cautioned Ambassador Dobbins to be more careful in the preparation and delivery of Congressional testimony. Knowing Ambassador Dobbins, I have no doubt that he will do so. The Department of State and Ambassador Dobbins stand ready to discuss this matter further with you.

I believe that Ambassador Dobbins is ideally suited to serve as Special Advisor on Kosovo, an issue that demands his immense talents and intellectual energy. In my view, it would be contrary to the national interest not to assign the best officers to the most challenging issues and contrary to principles of fundamental fairness to reopen this matter in response to outside pressure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Samuel R. Berger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Samuel R. Berger
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
Chairman
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3220

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1999

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel R. Berger". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Samuel R. Berger
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1306

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

2492

May 13, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

FROM: JAMES E. BAKER *JB*

SUBJECT: Response to Representatives Gilman and Hyde Re
Ambassador Dobbins Appointment

Attached at Tab I are letters to Representatives Gilman and Hyde regarding Jim Dobbins appointment as Special Advisor on Kosovo. The State Department and Chuck Ruff have concurred in this reply. Jim Dobbins has also concurred and provided his Privacy Act consent to the disclosure of the attached information.

Concurrence by: Fulton Armstrong *JB*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Letters for Gilman and Hyde
Tab II Your Concurrence
Tab III Incoming Correspondence

April 14, 1999

Sandy:

You asked for a strong response to a letter from Representatives Hyde and Gilman challenging the selection of Jim Dobbins as Special Advisor on Kosovo. The attached response has been cleared by Fulton and Greg.

In responding there is risk in getting dragged into a protracted debate regarding the merits of Jim's case. (Note: The draft letter adopts the Department's finding that Jim acted in good faith, rather than the IG's conclusion that Jim "should have known that his testimony . . . was incomplete, misleading and possibly perjurious"). There is also risk that some Members will subsequently choose to mischaracterize your position as soft on "lying to Congress." However, these risks are outweighed by the importance of defending government employees from unfair attack. Nor could Jim perform his present duties as effectively if it was not clear that the National Security Advisor and Secretary retain full confidence in Jim's integrity and capability.

If you concur in the attached approach, I will proceed to:

- (1) clear the letter with Chuck Ruff;
- (2) ask Glyn to clear the letter with Kristie;
- (3) obtain Jim's Privacy Act waiver to release the letter.

Concur B Discuss _____

4) Show Jim the letter

June Buser

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 1, 1999

TO: EXEC
PER E-MAIL
TASKING

MEMORANDUM FOR SANDY BERGER, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM: BOB J. NASH, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENTIAL PERSONNEL

BN

SUBJECT: JAMES E. DOBBINS

I received the attached letter from Representatives Hyde and Gilman regarding their concern about James E. Dobbins serving as the Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Kosovo and Dayton Implementation. Since I do not handle this appointment, I am forwarding it to you for appropriate response. I assume you and Maria will respond to this letter as you see fit.

→ Jamie B -
I think a
strong defense
of Jim is appropriate.
Is it advisable?
Could you and ? Greg?
Fulton?
drgt

Q

BJN:lkd

cc: Maria Echaveste

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM F. GOODLING, PENNSYLVANIA
JAMES A. LEACH, IOWA
HENRY J. HYDE, ILLINOIS
DOUG BERENUTER, NEBRASKA
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, NEW JERSEY
DAN BURTON, INDIANA
ELTON CALLEGLEY, CALIFORNIA
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
CASS BALLENGER, NORTH CAROLINA
DANA ROHRBACHER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD A. MANZULLO, ILLINOIS
EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA
PETER T. KING, NEW YORK
STEVEN J. CHABOT, OHIO
MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD, SOUTH CAROLINA
MATT SALMON, ARIZONA
AMO HOUGHTON, NEW YORK
TOM CAMPBELL, CALIFORNIA
JOHN M. MCHUGH, NEW YORK
KEVIN BRADY, TEXAS
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
PAUL GILLMOR, OHIO
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
JOHN COOKSEY, LOUISIANA
TOM TANCREDO, COLORADO

RICHARD J. GARON
CHIEF OF STAFF

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5021

2492
SAM GEJDENSON, CONNECTICUT
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
HOWARD L. BERMAN, CALIFORNIA
GARY L. ACKERMAN, NEW YORK
ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA, AMERICAN SAMOA
MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
SHERROD BROWN, OHIO
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ALCEE L. HASTINGS, FLORIDA
PAT DANNER, MISSOURI
EARL F. HILLIARD, ALABAMA
BRAD SHERMAN, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT WEXLER, FLORIDA
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN, NEW JERSEY
JIM DAVIS, FLORIDA
EARL POMEROY, NORTH DAKOTA
WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT, MASSACHUSETTS
GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK
BARBARA LEE, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH CROWLEY, NEW YORK
JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL, PENNSYLVANIA

KATHLEEN BERTELSEN MOAZED
DEMOCRATIC CHIEF OF STAFF

March 18, 1999

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: James F. Dobbins

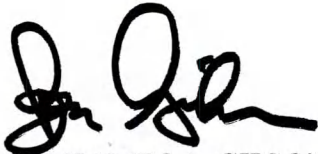
Dear Mr. President:

We write to express my grave concern regarding the appointment of Mr. James F. Dobbins as the new Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Kosovo and Dayton Implementation.

As you know, we managed the successful consideration last week in the House of Representatives of legislation authorizing the deployment of U.S. troops to Kosovo as part of a NATO-led force to implement a peace agreement. By its adoption of that resolution, the House was also expressing special trust and confidence in the Administration's Balkans policy team to provide the Congress and the American people with clear, comprehensive and truthful information before undertaking that risky deployment. To date, your Kosovo policy team has proved to be very worthy of this trust and confidence.

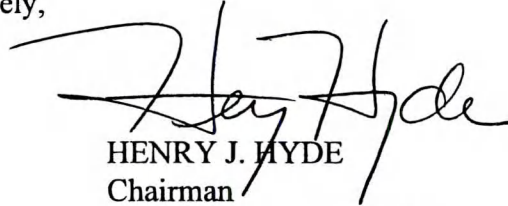
Regrettably, however, the same cannot be said for Mr. Dobbins. In testimony before our International Relations Committee, Mr. Dobbins misled the Congress on key aspects of Administration policy with regard to Haiti. His testimony shocked officials of the FBI who were present at the hearing, and he was later described, according to the New York Times, by the State Department's own Inspector General in a confidential report as a witness who displayed "reckless disregard" for the consequences of statements to our Committee that were misleading and false. It is our understanding that, based on the Inspector General's investigation and report, Mr. Dobbins was formally reprimanded for his misleading testimony before our Committee.

As the prospects for a difficult and dangerous mission in Kosovo grow nearer, it is my strong recommendation that an individual with unquestioned integrity and honesty in dealings before the Congress be placed in charge. Regrettably, because of his misleading and false testimony before our Committee with regard to Haiti, Mr. Dobbins does not meet that criteria.



BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Chairman
Committee on International Relations

Sincerely,



HENRY J. HYDE
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9902492
RECEIVED: 05 APR 99 20

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: HYDE, HENRY J
GILMAN, BENJAMIN A

DOC DATE: 18 MAR 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO

CO

PERSONS: DOBBINS

SUBJECT: RESERVATIONS RE APPOINTMENT OF DOBBINS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 16 APR 99 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: BAKER

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
BAKER

FOR CONCURRENCE
ARMSTRONG
LACKEY
SCHULTE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
MUST BE PREPARED FOR MILES LACKEY'S SIGNATURE.

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

2412

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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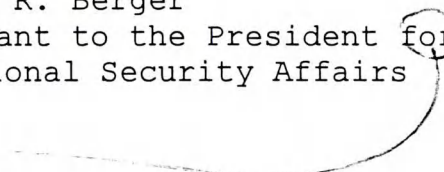
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The allegations against Ambassador Dobbins were taken seriously and thoroughly investigated. As you know, the Department of Justice declined prosecution in the matter. The Department of State, after reviewing the Inspector General's report, determined that Ambassador Dobbins testified in good faith and did not intentionally mislead the Congress. The charge against Ambassador Dobbins was not sustained and no formal disciplinary action was taken; however, the Department cautioned Ambassador Dobbins to be more careful in the preparation and delivery of Congressional testimony. Knowing Ambassador Dobbins, I have no doubt that he will do so. The Department of State and Ambassador Dobbins stand ready to discuss this matter further with you.

I believe that Ambassador Dobbins is ideally suited to serve as Special Advisor on Kosovo, an issue that demands his immense talents and intellectual energy. In my view, it would be contrary to the national interest not to assign the best officers to the most challenging issues and contrary to principles of fundamental fairness to reopen this matter in response to outside pressure.

Sincerely,

Samuel R. Berger
Assistant to the President for
↑ National Security Affairs

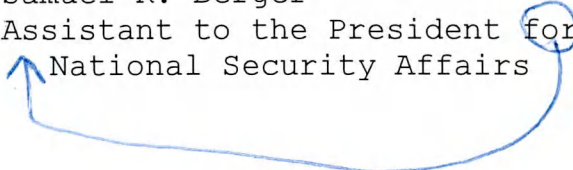


The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
Chairman
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3220

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Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs



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House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3220

2492

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