

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Somalia, March 1993

Staff Office-Individual:

Defense Policy-Bell, Robert

Original OA/ID Number:

740

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
31	3	10	1	V

Rec'd 3/16 5:00pm

OSCC
3/16/1800

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: WTA LOG # 1449
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PBS NSC INT
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG WTA AVO _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
<u>W</u> DepExecSec	<u>1</u>	<u>WTA</u>	
ExecSec			
Staff Director			
D/APNSA			
APNSA			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk			
NSC Secretariat			
<u>Bob Bell</u>			

FILE:

Somalia

not

A = Action I = Informatic

ction

cc: VP

Bob

COMMENTS:

16 MAR 95 3:

DISPATCH

Copy for
~~WTA~~
Gray
please
3/19

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 18, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM:

ROBERT BELL *RbB*

SUBJECT:

Proposed Visit of Secretary Brown to Somalia

I have no objection to Secretary Brown traveling to Somalia for a visit with US forces deployed there, particularly since Secretary Aspin will now not be able to make such a trip. What I do object to, however, is Secretary Brown's proposal to take a party to accompany him that includes an indeterminate number of Congressmen as well as representatives of veteran organizations.

Secretary Aspin has asked that no CODELS travel to Somalia at this time, and we have been successful in holding that line. If Secretary Brown takes a Congressional group with him, it will obviously undercut our ability to persuade other Members of Congress not to go.

In sum, I recommend that we approve Secretary Brown's proposal to travel to Somalia, with the proviso that he be accompanied only by a few key aides and appropriate military escorts.

*Discussed rally
with CV 3/19/93
along these lines.
R*

3/22/93

TAB I

TAB II

N/8c Secretariat
Please check out
Don

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 18, 1993

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Rec'd 3/16 5:00pm

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DOCLOG WJA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
<u>WJ</u> DepExecSec	<u>1</u>	<u>WJA</u>	
ExecSec			
Staff Director			
D/APNSA	<u>2</u>		
APNSA			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>		
NSC Secretariat			
<u>Bob Bell</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>see TL note</u>

A = Action

I = Information

D = Dispatch

R = Retain

N = No Further Action

cc:

VP

McLarty

Other _____

Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)

COMMENTS:

16 MAR 53 3:23

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS

Th-
in view of Les' unavailability, what wrong w/ Secty of VA visiting our troops? S.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 16, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: ROBERT G. BELL *RG*FROM: RICHARD HOOKER *RDH*

SUBJECT: Proposed Visit of Secretary Brown to Somalia

We looked at the issues surrounding Secretary Brown's proposed visit to Somalia. Action officers we spoke to at OSD, the Joint Staff and CENTCOM advised against the visit, at least for the next few months. Secretary Aspin has not had an opportunity to visit yet, and accommodations for visiting delegations are not available. Admiral Howe has only recently arrived, and our military and State Department people are fully engaged in planning the transition to UN command and effecting the redeployment of UNITAF. Health and security concerns are also important factors. We think a high level visit by Secretary Brown's delegation at this sensitive time would hinder the transition process. A more opportune time frame would be after Admiral Howe has completed the transition and adequate security and guest arrangements can be made.

Concurrences by: Keith Hahn *KH*RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I proposing reconsideration of a visit to Somalia by Secretary Brown at a later date.

Attachments

Tab I Recommended Memorandum to Cabinet Affairs
Tab II VA Trip Proposal

*Bob -
How strongly
do you feel
about this?
R*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISTINE VARNEY

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Visit to Somalia by the Secretary of Veterans
Affairs

I would advise against a visit to Somalia by Secretary Brown's delegation at this time. Our military and diplomatic people there are fully engaged right now in preparations for the transition to UN command, and visits by high level delegations would be an added burden. I think it would be better to defer Secretary Brown's visit until Secretary Aspin has had an opportunity to visit Somalia and Admiral Howe has formally taken over and gotten established in Mogadishu. The security situation and nonavailability of guest housing are also problems. Once local conditions stabilize and the UN organization is up and running, I will be glad to support Secretary Brown's request to visit Somalia.

1449

WHITE PAPER -- SECRETARY'S SOMALIA PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL: That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, accompanied by a small official party of VA experts, Congressional and veterans organization representatives travel to Somalia by scheduled military aircraft.

PURPOSE: This fact-finding mission would serve to provide Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policymakers with a better understanding of the transition needs to civilian life of individuals who served in Somalia. It would also be a vivid portrayal of the government's concern for these future veterans' well being, not only to personnel serving there, but to an American public that at times reflects skepticism about federal post-military services to veterans.

- RATIONALES:**
- o No prior administration has seen fit to exhibit direct and top-level concern for the troop transition process by sending the VA head to an active military zone.
 - o Such a gesture, with the involvement of U.S. veterans leaders, would obviate possible criticism toward perceived slow or protracted response to the needs of veterans who served in Somalia.
 - o The morale-building aspects of such a mission would be consistent with the President's "Putting People First" philosophy.
 - o Preliminary assessments suggest that psychological stress to the troops is at a level where direct intervention by military medical staff is appropriate and where civilian follow through is likely to be necessary.
 - o An overt display of a fully cooperative effort by VA and DoD would demonstrate a significant shift in committing to shared responsibilities.
 - o The unique nature of the Somalia military mission has no historical parallel upon which prospective VA policy can be premised.

SUMMARY: Recommend that the White House announce its approval of this initiative and authorize VA to establish appropriate liaison with the departments of State and Defense to accomplish the stated mission.

#

stat

Date 3-12-92

FROM THE OFFICE OF CABINET SECRETARY

456-6280

Rahm Emanuel	☐	Bernie Nussbaum	☐
Mark Gearan	☒	Howard Paster	☐
Jack Gibbons	☐	Leon Panetta	☐
Marcia Hale	☐	John Podesta	☐
Alexis Herman	☐	Carol Rasco	☐
Nancy Hernreich	☐	Bob Rubin	☐
Anthony Lake	☒	Eli Segal	☐
Bruce Lindsey	☐	George Stephanopoulos	☒
Katie McGinty	☐	David Watkins	☐
Regina Montoya	☐	Maggie Williams	☐

Remarks: Attached is proposal from Secretary J. Brown to do a fact finding trip to Somalia. Please advise ASAP! Cheryl

Response: