

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE
HOWARD PASTER

SUBJECT: Reply to Congressman Gilman's Two Letters on Somalia

Purpose

To reply to Congressman Gilman's Letters on Somalia.

Background

Congressman Gilman wrote you two letters on Somalia over a three day period. In his first letter, Congressman Gilman urged you to articulate U.S. policy in Somalia more clearly. In his second letter, Congressman Gilman suggested that you were required under provisions of the War Powers Act to seek the approval of Congress to continue the mission in Somalia.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached reply to Congressman Gilman.

Attachments

Tab A Reply to Congressman Gilman

Tab B Letters from Congressman Gilman to the President

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

Dear Representative Gilman:

Thank you for your thoughtful letters on Somalia.

I am committed to the safety of our forces in Somalia and, as described in my report to the Congress of October 13, 1993, have directed actions to protect our troops and logistics bases in Somalia. You can be sure that I will remain vigilant until the last member of our Armed Forces is withdrawn from Somalia.

My report to Congress clearly describes the mission of U.S. forces and the actions we are taking to carry out that mission. In addition, it explains our plans for withdrawing U.S. Armed Forces from Somalia by March 31, 1994, with the exception of a relatively small number of non-combat military personnel. Significantly, our plans are consistent with the Congress' approval of the use of U.S. Armed Forces in Somalia as enacted into law as part of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1994.

As you know, throughout the year the Administration has worked closely with the Congress on U.S. policy in Somalia. Our consultations have included the matter of authority for the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces, and we have consistently stated that we welcomed Congressional support for our efforts in Somalia. A number of matters discussed during these consultations, including questions relating to the War Powers Resolution, are no longer at issue in view of the provision in the Defense Appropriations Act.

Congressional support is essential both for an effective policy in Somalia and to assure the safety of our people. I am committed to continued close cooperation with the Congress and to keeping Congress fully informed on developments and U.S. activities in Somalia. I look forward to working with you and other Members of Congress to ensure success in this important mission.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 15, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: RICHARD A. CLARKE

FROM: SEAN J. DARRAGH

SUBJECT: Reply to Congressman Gilman's Letters on Somalia

Congressman Gilman wrote two letters to the President on Somalia in a period of three days. In his first letter, Congressman Gilman urged the President to articulate U.S. policy in Somalia more clearly to the Congress and the American people. In his second letter, Congressman Gilman suggested that the President was required under the War Powers Act to seek approval from the Congress to continue the mission in Somalia.

Concurrences by: Michael Andricos, Jennifer Ward, Alan Kreczko

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the attached reply to the President for signature.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Reply to Congressman Gilman's Letters

Tab B Congressman Gilman's Letters to the President