

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

17-Apr-1991 11:28 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM: (WHSR_ROUTER@WHSR)

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BUSH TO PRESIDENT GORBACHEV

<DIST>
PRT: GATES SCOWCROFT SIT
SIT: BURNS FILE HAASS PRES_MSGS SIT SUM VAX BRANSCUM

<PREC>
IMMEDIATE
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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RUEHC
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

<TO>
TO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 0992
INFO RUFHBG/USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE 9131

<SUBJ>
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BUSH TO PRESIDENT GORBACHEV

<TEXT>
BT
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 124486 TOSEC 050002
NODIS
E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, UR
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BUSH TO PRESIDENT GORBACHEV

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BUSH TO PRESIDENT GORBACHEV ON THE KURDISH SITUATION SHOULD BE DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY.
3. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MIKHAIL:
I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO WRITE TO YOU PERSONALLY TO
&RIEF YOU ON OUR EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO THE TERRIBLE

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 12958
98-0099-A/4
20 Mar 03 MW

TRAGEDY THAT HAS AFFLICTED THE IRAQI KURDS ON THE
TURKISH-IRAQI BORDER. AS YOU KNOW, HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS OF THESE PEOPLE FLED TO THE BORDER AREA DURING
THE PAST FEW WEEKS AFTER HAVING COME UNDER A VICIOUS
ASSAULT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SADDAM HUSSEIN.
IN RESPONSE TO THIS MASS MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE, AND THE
TERRIBLE SUFFERING IT HAS PRODUCED, I ANNOUNCED ON APRIL
16, AFTER CONSULTING WITH PRIME MINISTER MAJOR,
PRESIDENT MITTERRAND, PRESIDENT OZAL AND THE UN
SECRETARY GENERAL THAT THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES WOULD
UNDERTAKE A NEW AND MASSIVE RELIEF EFFORT TO HELP THE
KURDS.

TOGETHER, WE HAVE BEGUN TO CONSTRUCT TEMPORARY
ENCAMPMENTS IN IRAQ NEAR THE BORDER ON FLATTER LAND
WHERE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE REFUGEES TO RECEIVE
CARE AND RELIEF SUPPLIES ON AN ORDERLY BASIS. THESE
HUMANITARIAN CENTERS WILL BE PROTECTED BY A LIMITED
NUMBER OF MILITARY FORCES FROM THE UK, FRANCE AND THE
U.S. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ACTION IS FULLY CONSISTENT
WITH UNSC RESOLUTION 688. WE HOPE AND EXPECT THAT IRAQ
WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THESE EFFORTS WHICH WILL BE
NORTH OF THE 36TH PARALLEL.

WE VIEW THIS INITIATIVE AS TEMPORARY AND SOLELY
HUMANITARIAN. WE INTEND TO TRANSFER RESPONSIBILITY FOR
ADMINISTERING AND PROTECTING THESE CENTERS TO THE UN AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THIS EFFORT
IS IN NO WAY AN ATTEMPT BY THE U.S. OR ITS ALLIES TO
INTERVENE IN THE IRAQI CIVIL WAR OR TO DISMEMBER IRAQ.
OUR EVENTUAL GOAL IS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE
REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN IRAQ WHERE THEY CAN
LIVE FREELY AND WITHOUT FEAR.

I HOPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION, UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP,
WILL SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS AND CONTINUE TO WORK WITH US
IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RELIEF
AND PROTECTION THAT THESE UNFORTUNATE REFUGEES DESERVE.
WITH WARM REGARDS,

SINCERELY,
GEORGE BUSH

END TEXT. KIMMITT

BT

#4486

<SECT>

SECTION: 01 OF 01

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