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Last Updated: 11/06/2023

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 15, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ROBERT W. PLASTER

SUBJECT: OPPOSES ANY PAYMENT TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE
WHO PERISHED IN THE IRANIAN AIRLINER SHOT
DOWN OVER THE PERSIAN GULF

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D
ROGER BOLTON		ORG	88/07/15		C 88/07/18
<i>NSPOWE</i>	REFERRAL NOTE:	D	88/07/21		C 88/08/18
<i>CODOVO</i>	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	88/08/19	TR	88/09/14
<i>99DOS</i>	REFERRAL NOTE:	D	88/08/23		C 88/09/01
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

NSC 8806281

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

- ~ACTION CODES: ~DISPOSITION ~OUTGOING ~
- ~A-APPROPRIATE ACTION ~A-ANSWERED ~CORRESPONDENCE: ~
- ~C-COMMENT/RECOM ~B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL ~TYPE RESP=INITIALS ~
- ~D-DRAFT RESPONSE ~C-COMPLETED ~ OF SIGNER ~
- ~F-FURNISH FACT SHEET ~S-SUSPENDED ~ CODE = A ~
- ~I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC~ ~COMPLETED = DATE OF ~
- ~R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY ~ ~ OUTGOING ~
- ~S-FOR-SIGNATURE ~ ~ ~
- ~X-INTERIM REPLY ~ ~ ~

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OE0B) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

88 JUL 21 P 1: 30

-2-...
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(a) ...
 (b) ...
 (c) ...

18 JUL 21 1968

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September 14, 1988

Dear Mr. Plaster:

I am replying to your letter to President Reagan concerning the U.S. offer to pay compensation to the families of the victims of Iran Air flight 655. I regret the delay in this response.

The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life in the recent downing of Iran Air flight 655 by a U.S. vessel, and has conveyed its position to the Iranian Government and to the other governments of those on board the flight. As President Reagan announced, for humanitarian reasons, the United States will compensate the families of the victims in a way that does not involve the Iranian Government. The U.S. offer is voluntary and not a matter of legal obligation.

The arrangements for direct payment to the families are currently under study. No compensation will be paid to the Government of Iran for the loss of the aircraft itself, which was owned and operated by the Iranian Government. The United States has not made payment of compensation to the families contingent on changes of behavior by the Iranian Government because this would suggest that we are prepared to reward such changes by paying money to the Iranian Government. To make payment contingent on the release of our own hostages would reward terrorism and hostage-taking.

This tragedy underlines the urgency of ending the most dangerous and destructive source of regional tension -- the Iran-Iraq war. The United States supports the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to find a negotiated settlement of this protracted conflict. Toward that goal, we led the effort in the U.N. Security Council that resulted in the unanimous passage of Resolution 598 on July 20, 1987. The Resolution establishes a solid basis to ensure a lasting peace by calling for an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal to international borders, the return of prisoners of war, and the establishment of a body to determine responsibility for the war. The United States strongly believes that implementation of Resolution 598 is the best means to achieve a comprehensive, negotiated settlement. Both sides have now accepted that Resolution. The urgent need now is to bring it into practical effect to end the conflict.

The United States will continue to work with the U.N. Security Council and the Secretary General to bring an end to this tragic war. In the meantime, U.S. military forces will remain in the Gulf to protect our national interests.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Robert W. Plaster
Chairman of the Board
Empire Gas Corporation
1700 South Jefferson Street
Lebanon, Missouri 65536

AVH/DOS:NSC:AVH:CAD:ds (9AVH)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

R typing
CSB

6281

September 1, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR SALLY KELLEY

FROM: PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS *RSP*
fn

SUBJECT: Response to Letter Opposing Compensation
for Victims of Iran Air 655

The NSC staff approves the attached draft response.

Attachment

Tab A State Transmittal Memo dtd 8/29/88
w/attachments

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 31, 1988

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS

FROM: WILLIAM J. BURNS *WB*

SUBJECT: Response to Letter Opposing Compensation
for Victims of Iran Air 655

The attached draft response looks fine.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to Sally Kelley at Tab I.

Accept *WB* Disapprove _____

Prepared by: Sandra L. Charles

Attachments

Tab I Stevens Memo to Kelley
Tab A State Transmittal form dtd 8/29/88

S/S# 8825208
DATE August 29, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

For: Mr. Paul Schott Stevens
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan
FROM: Mr. Robert W. Plaster
DATE: July 12, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation for families of Iran
Air flight 655 victims

WH Referral Dated: August 23, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 584656

 The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State

ACTION TAKEN:

- XXX A draft reply is attached
 A draft reply will be forwarded
 A translation is attached
 information copy of a direct reply is attached
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below
 The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel
 Other (see remarks)

REMARKS:


Director
Secretariat Staff

88 AUG 30 A 6-47

CK

SUGGESTED REPLY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

S/
ack

cod

AVH / *DOSS/NSC/AVH/CA/*

Dear Mr. Plaster:

I am replying to your letter to President Reagan concerning the U.S. offer to pay compensation to the families of the victims of Iran Air flight 655. I regret the delay in this response.

The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life in the recent downing of Iran Air flight 655 by a U.S. vessel, and has conveyed its position to the Iranian Government and to the other governments of those on board the flight. As President Reagan announced, for humanitarian reasons, the United States will compensate the families of the victims in a way that does not involve the Iranian Government. The U.S. offer is voluntary and not a matter of legal obligation.

The arrangements for direct payment to the families are currently under study. No compensation will be paid to the Government of Iran for the loss of the aircraft itself, which was owned and operated by the Iranian Government. The United States has not made payment of compensation to the families contingent on changes of behavior by the Iranian Government

Mr. Robert W. Plaster,
Empire Gas Corporation,
1700 South Jefferson Street,
Lebanon, Missouri.

because this would suggest that we are prepared to reward such changes by paying money to the Iranian Government. To make payment contingent on the release of our own hostages would reward terrorism and hostage-taking.

This tragedy underlines the urgency of ending the most dangerous and destructive source of regional tension -- the

Iran-Iraq war. The United States ^{supports the efforts of the United Nations} ~~is working with states in the~~

~~region and outside it to find a negotiated settlement of this~~

~~protracted (PROTRACTED) bilateral conflict.~~ Toward that goal, we led the effort in the

UN Security Council that resulted in the unanimous passage of

Resolution 598 on July 20, 1987. The Resolution establishes a

solid basis to ensure a lasting peace by calling for an immediate

cease-fire and withdrawal to international borders, the

return of prisoners of war, and the establishment of a body to

determine responsibility for the war. The United States strongly

~~ly~~ believes that implementation of Resolution 598 is the best

means to achieve a comprehensive, negotiated settlement. Both

sides have now accepted that Resolution. The urgent need now

is to bring it into practical effect to end the conflict.

The United States will continue to work with the UN

Security Council and the Secretary General to bring an end to

this tragic war. In the meantime, U.S. military forces will

remain in the Gulf to protect our national interests.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

SUGGESTED REPLY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dear Mr. Plaster:

I am replying to your letter to President Reagan concerning the U.S. offer to pay compensation to the families of the victims of Iran Air flight 655. I regret the delay in this response.

The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life in the recent downing of Iran Air flight 655 by a U.S. vessel, and has conveyed its position to the Iranian Government and to the other governments of those on board the flight. As President Reagan announced, for humanitarian reasons, the United States will compensate the families of the victims in a way that does not involve the Iranian Government. The U.S. offer is voluntary and not a matter of legal obligation.

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Mr. Robert W. Plaster,
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The United States will continue to work with the UN Security Council and the Secretary General to bring an end to this tragic war. In the meantime, U.S. military forces will remain in the Gulf to protect our national interests.

Sincerely,

8825208

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

AUGUST 23, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 584656

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 12, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. ROBERT W. PLASTER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
EMPIRE GAS CORPORATION
1700 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET
LEBANON MO 65536

SUBJECT: OPPOSES ANY PAYMENT TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE
WHO PERISHED IN THE IRANIAN AIRLINER SHOT
DOWN OVER THE PERSIAN GULF

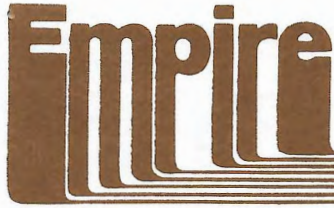
PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

11.
Empire Gas Corporation
1700 South Jefferson Street
Lebanon, Missouri 65536
Phone 417-532-3101

Robert W. Plaster
Chairman of the Board



R. Plaster

July 12, 1988

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

Any payment to the families of the Iranians who
perished in the airliner destroyed by the U.S.
Navy in the Persian Gulf is unthinkable.

A payment of \$1 million per family, as suggested
by the news media today, is utterly ridiculous.
There are far more important places to spend our
government's money. I am bitterly opposed to
financing our enemies, the citizens of Khomeini's
regime in Iran.

I urge you to oppose any payments to the Iranians.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Plaster". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert W. Plaster

cr

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: PLASTER, ROBERT W

DOC DATE: 12 JUL 88
SOURCE REF: 584656

KEYWORDS: IRAN

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE OPPOSES US COMPENSATION FOR FAMILIES OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655
VICTIMS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO STEVENS TO KELLEY DUE DATE: 02 SEP 88 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: BURNS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCIF:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
BURNS

FOR CONCURRENCE
KELLY, B *(not necessary)*
TAHIR-KHELI *(not available)*

FOR INFO
LEACH
OAKLEY
ROSTOW

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSRCB CLOSED BY: DOC 1 OF 1

National Security Council
The White House

JP

88 AUG 31 P 4: 09

System # _____
Package # 6281
DOCLOG JP A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Perito	<u>1</u>	<u>RP</u>	_____
Marybel Batjer	_____	_____	_____
Paul Stevens	<u>2</u>	<u>✓</u>	_____
John Negroponte	_____	_____	_____
Colin Powell	_____	_____	_____
Paul Stevens	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>JP/1</u>	<u>N</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>	<u>R. B. 9/2</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>Donley</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>A</u>

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Duberstein Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)



UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8806281
RECEIVED: 30 AUG 88 10

TO: KELLEY, S

FROM: STEVENS

DOC DATE: 01 SEP 88
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: IRAN

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE OPPOSES US COMPENSATION FOR FAMILIES OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655
VICTIMS

ACTION: PERITO SGD MEMO DUE DATE: 02 SEP 88 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BURNS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCIF:

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
BURNS
CHARLES

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSRCB

CLOSED BY: NSRCB

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 8806281

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 BURNS

003 STEVENS

004

Z 88083010 PREPARE MEMO STEVENS TO KELLEY

Z 88083114 FOR SIGNATURE

X 88090209 PERITO SGD MEMO

UNCLASSIFIED

B

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 15, 1988

JUL 18 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE WHITFIELD JONES

SUBJECT: OPPOSES PAYMENT TO FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO
PERISHED IN THE IRANIAN AIRLINER SHOT DOWN
OVER THE PERSIAN GULF, ALSO OPPOSES THE BILL
INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KENNEDY TO REQUIRE ~

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
CRISTY BACH		ORG	88/07/15	CR C		88/8/12
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /			/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /			/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /			/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /			/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /			/ /

COMMENTS: ~ EMPLOYERS TO PAY FULL MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR
THEIR EMPLOYEES

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2500 _____

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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~A-ACTION CODES:          ~DISPOSITION          ~OUTGOING          ~
~
~A-APPROPRIATE ACTION    ~A-ANSWERED          ~CORRESPONDENCE:  ~
~C-COMMENT/RECOM         ~B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL ~TYPE RESP=INITIALS ~
~D-DRAFT RESPONSE        ~C-COMPLETED        ~           OF SIGNER ~
~F-FURNISH FACT SHEET    ~S-SUSPENDED         ~           CODE = A    ~
~I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC~ ~                       ~COMPLETED = DATE OF ~
~R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY  ~                       ~           OUTGOING  ~
~S-FOR-SIGNATURE         ~                       ~                       ~
~X-INTERIM REPLY         ~                       ~                       ~

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

5846582

TOWN OF ST. JOSEPH
ST. JOSEPH, LOUISIANA 71366

WHITFIELD JONES, MAYOR

LYNDLE C. PERRITT, TOWN CLERK

July 12, 1988

COUNCILMEN:
JACK GRACE, JR.
CARL RANDOLPH
BENNY STANSELL
WILLIE WEBB
JIMMY S. CLARK

President Ronald Reagan
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

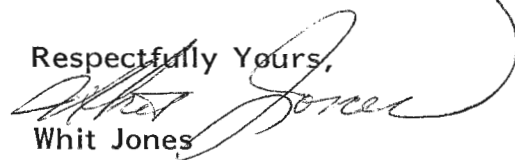
With all due respect and honor to you and your high office, and having been a full supporter of yours for 8 years, I am completely stunned that you have supported paying Iranians for the loss of relatives. Have you forgotten what they have cost us in loss of life and property over the last 8 years?

I have numerous people here in this small delta town that cannot pay a \$100.00 utility bill. I would love to have just a few thousand dollars in a benevolent fund to help these folks.....for goodness sake send money to us rather than Iran.

Another cloud on the national horizon is this bill that Ted Kennedy is pushing to require employers to pay full medical insurance for their employees. Honorable President, please veto this moronic bill if our legislators allow it to pass.

Thanking you for your time and effort in serving our great country, I am ,

Respectfully Yours,



Whit Jones

cc: all legislators

V.P. Bush

2

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 18, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JACK FIELDS

SUBJECT: WRITES IN OPPOSITION TO ANY PAYMENT OF
COMPENSATION TO IRAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE
DOWNING OF IRAN AIR FLIGHT 655

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D
ALAN KRANOWITZ		ORG	88/07/18	OK	A88/7/19
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

TR

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

- ~ACTION CODES: ~DISPOSITION ~OUTGOING ~
- ~A-APPROPRIATE ACTION ~A-ANSWERED ~CORRESPONDENCE: ~
- ~C-COMMENT/RECOM ~B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL ~TYPE RESP=INITIALS ~
- ~D-DRAFT RESPONSE ~C-COMPLETED ~ OF SIGNER ~
- ~F-FURNISH FACT SHEET ~S-SUSPENDED ~ CODE = A ~
- ~I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC~ ~COMPLETED = DATE OF ~
- ~R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY ~ ~ OUTGOING ~
- ~S-FOR-SIGNATURE ~ ~ ~
- ~X-INTERIM REPLY ~ ~ ~

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OE0B) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

July 19, 1988

Dear Jack:

Thank you for your July 14 letter to the President regarding the situation in the Persian Gulf.

We appreciated the opportunity to review your comments relative to compensation for the families of the victims who died in the Iranian airliner incident. As you are aware, the President has reached a decision in this matter. This determination was outlined by Marlin Fitzwater in a July 11 announcement, a copy of which I am enclosing.

Again, thank you for your interest in writing on behalf of your constituents in the Eighth District.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

Alan M. Kranowitz
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Jack Fields
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure

AMK:KRJ:

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives • Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 1988

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

Dear Mr. President:

AE
I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to any payment of compensation to Iran in connection with the downing of Iran Air flight 655. While I appreciate and understand the humanitarian concern you have expressed to the families of people who died of flight 655, I believe payment of compensation at this time is unjustified.

This tragic incident would never have happened if the government of Iran had not adopted a policy of preying on neutral shipping in the Persian Gulf, nor would it have happened if that government had not defied international diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving a ceasefire and a negotiated settlement in the war against Iraq.

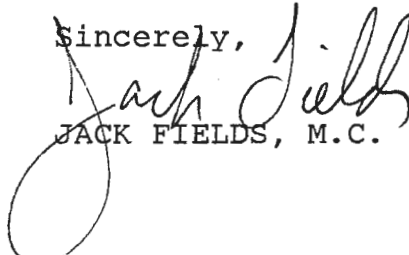
Iran once again has shown a brutal indifference to the lives of its own people by permitting flight 655 to take off and fly into a hostile area. The downing of flight 655 occurred after a respected U.S. Navy commander and his crew issued seven warnings to the approaching aircraft to identify itself, and after the aircraft failed to do so.

No American has attempted to minimize this tragic mistake, and the United States has accepted responsibility for its actions. But, compensation implies liability for a negligent act by the United States. In no way can the U.S. Navy be blamed for carrying out its mission and protecting the lives of U.S. servicemen.

As long as the government of Iran is convinced it can gain its objectives in the Gulf and elsewhere by continuing this senseless war, compensation should not be considered. The time to consider compensation is during a political negotiation when the hostilities have ceased and when nine innocent Americans have been safely released from their pro-Iranian captors in the Middle East.

Mr. President, I appeal to you on behalf of the residents of my Congressional District to reconsider your decision to pay compensation for the victims of flight 655.

Sincerely,


JACK FIELDS, M.C.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives - Washington, DC

REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAY 11, 1900

Approved by the House of Representatives
MAY 11, 1900

Approved by the Senate
MAY 11, 1900

Approved by the President
MAY 11, 1900

Approved by the Secretary of the Interior
MAY 11, 1900

Approved by the Commissioner of the General Land Office
MAY 11, 1900

Approved by the Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office
MAY 11, 1900

[Handwritten signature]
Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
 James B. Wilkinson, Judge
 Manchester Courthouse
 10th and Hull Streets
 Richmond, Virginia 23224



July 11, 1988

The Honorable Ronald Reagan, President
 United States of America
 The White House
 Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Mr. President:

All the people I have talked with, and I, oppose reparations to the families on the airliner that was shot down by the USS Vincennes. I have always supported you and I think it would be a grave mistake to think about payment compensation at this time.

From the evidence at this time, it would appear that Captain William Rogers acted properly and there is nowhere in the Constitution that I can find that gives you or Congress the right to spend American taxpayers' money in such a manner.

I sincerely hope that you will not ask for the payment of this money until some fault is put on the U.S. Navy.

Very truly yours,


 James B. Wilkinson

JBW:mea

2

Department of Justice
Justice Building
Washington, D.C.
1000



[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CO 071

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 19, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MARVIN O. TEAGUE

SUBJECT: APPRECIATION FOR ANNOUNCEMENT MADE TO PAY REPARATIONS TO FAMILIES OF AIRLINER SHOT DOWN BY THE USS VINCENNES AS HE PREDICTS THAT FOR EVERY TAXPAYER'S DOLLAR GIVEN TO THE ~

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JUDY BLACK		ORG	88/07/19		C 88/07/20
<i>NSC Mail</i>	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	88/08/04		C 88/08/09
<i>DOJ</i>	REFERRAL NOTE:	K	88/08/10		C 88/08/23
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: ~ IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, THERE WILL BE ONE LESS VOTE FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
SEE ID 584296

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

```

*****
~ACTION CODES:          ~DISPOSITION              ~OUTGOING                ~
~
~A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  ~A-ANSWERED                ~CORRESPONDENCE:        ~
~C-COMMENT/RECOM       ~B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      ~TYPE RESP=INITIALS    ~
~D-DRAFT RESPONSE      ~C-COMPLETED              ~           OF SIGNER   ~
~F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  ~S-SUSPENDED               ~           CODE = A     ~
~I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC~
~R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY ~
~S-FOR-SIGNATURE        ~
~X-INTERIM REPLY        ~
*****

```

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

S/S# 8824087
DATE August 12, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

For: Mr. Paul Schott Stevens
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan
FROM: The Honorable Marvin O. Teague
DATE: July 12, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation for victims of Iran Air
Flight 655

WH Referral Dated: August 10, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 584720

 The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached
 A draft reply will be forwarded
 A translation is attached
 information copy of a direct reply is attached
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
XXX cited below
 The Department of State has no objection to the
 proposed travel
 Other (see remarks)

REMARKS:

Judge Teague wrote to the President on July 5 expressing his opposition to U.S. compensation for the families of the Iran Air victims. The Department sent a response regarding U.S. compensation to Judge Teague on July 28. No further response is necessary.

Philip Zelikow
Director
Secretariat Staff

88 AUG 12 P 4: 28

8824087

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

AUGUST 10, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 584720

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 12, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: THE HONORABLE MARVIN O. TEAGUE
JUDGE
COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
ROOM A-203
SUPREME COURT BUILDING
AUSTIN TX 78701

SUBJECT: APPRECIATION FOR ANNOUNCEMENT MADE TO PAY
REPARATIONS TO FAMILIES OF AIRLINER SHOT DOWN
BY THE USS VINCENNES AS HE PREDICTS THAT FOR
EVERY TAXPAYER'S DOLLAR GIVEN TO THE
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT, THERE WILL BE ONE LESS
VOTE FOR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
SEE ID 584296

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

584720

MARVIN O. TEAGUE

8824087

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
STATE OF TEXAS

J. Black

ROOM A-203, SUPREME COURT BUILDING
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
TELEPHONE (AC 512)
463-1580
464-1555

July 12, 1988

President Ronald Reagan
President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I write this letter as a private citizen.

The Houston Chronicle reported today: "The United States will pay an unspecified amount in reparations to the families of the 290 people aboard an Iranian airliner shot down by a U.S. warship over the Persian Gulf, the White House announced today."

As a registered Democratic Party voter, I wish to thank you for that announcement because I predict that for every taxpayer's dollar that is given to the Iranian Government, either directly or indirectly, that will be one less vote for any State-wide Republican candidate, who is up for election or re-election.

Very truly yours,

Marvin O. Teague
MARVIN O. TEAGUE

P.S. Democartic Congressman Jim Wright is not, contrary to what many might think, elected state-wide in Texas.

Marvin O. Teague
MARVIN O. TEAGUE

MOT:jl



1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses. The names are: John Doe, Jane Smith, and Bob Johnson. The addresses are: 123 Main St, 456 Elm St, and 789 Oak St.

2. The second part of the document is a list of dates and times. The dates are: 10/10/2021, 10/11/2021, and 10/12/2021. The times are: 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 12:00 PM.

3. The third part of the document is a list of numbers and percentages. The numbers are: 100, 200, and 300. The percentages are: 10%, 20%, and 30%.

[Handwritten signature or scribble]

[Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page]

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

0071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 19, 1988

JUL 20 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. GHIGAU BUFORD

SUBJECT: OPPOSES ANY REPARATIONS BEING PAID TO THE
FAMILIES OF THE PEOPLE ABOARD THE IRANIAN
AIRLINER SHOT DOWN BY THE USS VINCENNES

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
CRISTY BACH		ORG	88/07/19	WIK	C 88/7/28 TR
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4900 4400 4610

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

```

~A-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
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

OFFICE OF TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION
COORDINATION PROGRAM SERVICES
PERSONNEL SERVICES
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
TRIBAL CEREMONIAL OFFICE
COUNCIL
ASSISTANCE TO THE AGING
ASSISTANCE TO THE CHILDRENS
& TEENS PROGRAMS

CONSTITUTION OF JULY 1827
SOUTHEASTERN CHEROKEE & CREEK TRIBE
NATIONAL TRIBAL OFFICE
COX-OSCEOLA INDIAN RESERVATION
P.O. Box 521
Orange Springs, FL. 32682
(904) 546-1386

584722

OFFICERS
BETTIE GHIGUA BUFORD Principal Chief
SINGS ALONE DUNKIN Principal Sub Chief
CHIEF RUNNING BUCK BUFORD Reservation Chief
NORBERT JOHNSON Chief Advisor on Indian Affairs
HONARY CHIEF RED SKY TURNER Council Advisor
SOUNDING SKY HEFLICK Historian
BRIGHT STAR WELLS Treasury
RED GRASS COX Secretary
CHIEF THREE BUFFALO WILSON Assistance Secretary
DAN "BIG FOOT" PIERCE War Chief
WHISTLING WOMAN BOYDE Tribal Mother

C. Back

July 8, 1988

Dear Mr. President;

FROM THE LAND OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CHEROKEE CREEK SEMINOLE
NATION.

I and My Tribe, wish to send our support to the Adminis-
tration of the Ship in the Persian Gulf, who shot down a Passenger
Plane. We feel, like many other Citizens, that it very well
could have been a Ka Ma Kasi Life Plane. If so many of Our Men
Aboard that Ship, could have been Killed.

I feel that the United States Government, has been more
than lenient with Iran. Iran did not help any of the 36 Families
of the Serviceman, that they Killed on the other Ship. I do
not feel that The United States Government, should help any of
the Iranian Families. They are trying to make aggressers of
The American People, when infact they are the ones who Started
the Conflict in the First Place

Sincerely,

Principal Chief Ghigau Buford

Principal Chief Ghigau Buford

Chief Three Buffalo Willson
Private Secretary

SOUTHEASTERN CHEMICAL & CREEK TRAIL

CONSTITUTION OF JULY 1957
NATIONAL TRAIL OFFICE
THE PEOPLE'S PARTY NATIONAL
4200 14th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Phone: 202-331-1111

MEMBER LIST
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY
STATE
ZIP

July 2, 1958

Dear Mr. [Name]

I had my trip, which is now well advanced to the main-
stream of the ship in the Federal Hall, and that shows
clearly. In fact, it is very clear that it is very well
known to all of us that this is the only way to go
about this ship, which has been built.

I feel that the United States Government, and that some
other nations with laws, have the right way of the world
of the government, that they killed on the other side. I do
not feel that the United States Government, should help any
the Iranian Revolution, they are trying to help aggressors as
the Russian people, and that they are the ones who started
the conflict in the first place.

Sincerely,

Richard G. [Name]
[Address]

Richard G. [Name]
[Address]

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 19, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MISS MARTHA ROUNTREE

SUBJECT: WRITES TO ASK RECONSIDERATION OF THE
DECISION TO PAY REPARATIONS TO THE FAMILIES
OF THOSE KILLED IN THE DOWNING OF IRAN AIR
FLIGHT 655

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JUANITA DUGGAN		ORG	88/07/20		C 88/8/12
	REFERRAL NOTE: Dept. of Defense	D	88/8/16		C 88/8/20
	REFERRAL NOTE: Juanita Duggan		88/08/30	D	A 88/10/03
	REFERRAL NOTE: Letter				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

- ~ACTION CODES: ~DISPOSITION ~OUTGOING ~
- ~A-APPROPRIATE ACTION ~A-ANSWERED ~CORRESPONDENCE: ~
- ~C-COMMENT/RECOM ~B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL ~TYPE RESP=INITIALS ~
- ~D-DRAFT RESPONSE ~C-COMPLETED ~ OF SIGNER ~
- ~F-FURNISH FACT SHEET ~S-SUSPENDED ~ CODE = A ~
- ~I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC~ ~COMPLETED = DATE OF ~
- ~R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY ~ ~ OUTGOING ~
- ~S-FOR-SIGNATURE ~ ~
- ~X-INTERIM REPLY ~ ~

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 30, 1988

Dear Ms. Rountree:

I am responding to your letter to President Reagan of July 14, in which you asked him to reconsider his decision to pay reparations to the families of those killed in the downing of Iran Flight 655. The President believes that his decision, as hard as it was to make, was the correct one.

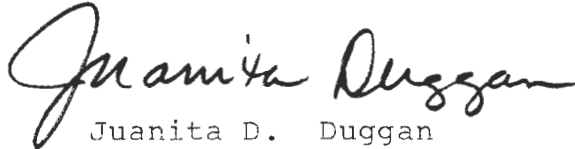
On August 19, the Secretary of Defense reported to the public the final results of the investigation into this tragic incident. The report bears out your contention that Iran shares the blame for this tragic accident in that it initiated the surface action, ignored repeated warnings of U.S. forces concerning potential hazards of flights in the Persian gulf, and allowed an airliner to take off from a joint "military/civilian" airfield and fly directly into the midst of a gunfight. Despite the culpability of the Government of Iran, the Air Bus victims were not terrorists; therefore it would be inhumane and contrary to American tradition to deprive the families of just, fair compensation for their losses. This said, however, you should be assured that we will not pay one cent to the Government of Iran.

The President's position is firm in laying blame for state supported terrorism, but also believes it would be equally inappropriate to deprive or use these innocent, bereaved families to blackmail a government with which we do not have normal relations. We cannot use the grief of Iranian families as "bargaining chips" to obtain compensation for Americans who have also lost loved ones to terrorism. The U.S. must lead by example and hope that if not this present leadership of Iran, maybe the next will acknowledge accepted standards of fairness. United States law provides for compensation in terrorist situations and this may be an avenue that your organization may want to pursue.

The Administration will not normalize relations with Iran until it does three critical things. First, it must use its influence with the terrorists in Lebanon to release Americans held hostage; next, it must change its present support for state supported terrorism; and finally, it needs to show a sincere desire to achieve a lasting peace with Iraq. While there are signs that peace may be coming, there is no indication that Iran has changed its present position on the issues of terrorism or the U.S. hostages.

If I may be of further assistance on this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Juanita Duggan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Juanita D. Duggan
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison

Ms. Martha Rountree
President
Leadership Foundation
Post Office Box 280
Cabin John, MD 20818



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



PL 10161

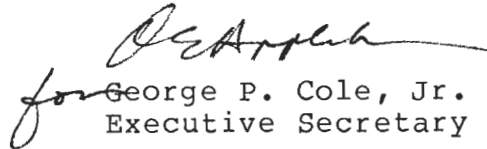
30 APR 87

Sally Kelley

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, ~~WHITE HOUSE~~ MILITARY OFFICE

SUBJECT: OSD White House Case W21224

Attached, as requested, is a draft reply to correspondence received from the Leadership Foundation.


for George P. Cole, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE 88 AUG 16 PM 3:39

REFERRAL

AUGUST 16, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 584747

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 14, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MISS MARTHA ROUNTREE
PRESIDENT
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
POST OFFICE BOX 280
CABIN JOHN MD 20818

SUBJECT: WRITES TO ASK RECONSIDERATION OF THE
DECISION TO PAY REPARATIONS TO THE FAMILIES
OF THOSE KILLED IN THE DOWNING OF IRAN AIR
FLIGHT 655

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

2124

Ms. Marth Rountree
President
Leadership Foundation
Post Office Box 280
Cabin John, MD 20818

Dear Ms. Rountree:

I am responding to your letter of July 14, in which you asked me to reconsider my decision to pay reparations to the families of those killed in the downing of Iran Air Flight 655. I have thought about this long and hard and feel that my decision, as hard as it was to make, was the correct one.

On August 19, the Secretary of Defense reported to the public the final results of the investigation into this tragic incident. The report bears out your contention that Iran shares the blame for this tragic accident in that it initiated the surface action, ignored repeated warnings of U.S. forces concerning potential hazards of flights in the Gulf, and allowed an airliner to take off from a joint "military/civilian" airfield and fly directly into the midst of a gunfight. Despite the culpability of the Government of Iran, the Air Bus victims were not terrorists; therefore it would be inhumane and contrary to American tradition to deprive the families of just and fair compensation for their losses. This said, however, you should be assured that we will not pay one cent to the Government of Iran.

There is no one in the United States who feels more strongly than I do on the subject of state supported terrorism, but I also believe it would be equally inappropriate to deprive or use

these innocent, bereaved families to blackmail a government with which we do not even have normal relations. If we used the grief of lost loved ones as bargaining "chips" to obtain compensation for Americans who have also lost loved ones to terrorism, we would be lowering ourselves to their standards, not doing what is right. We are better than that - we need to lead by example and hope that if not this present leadership of Iran, maybe the next will raise itself to our level of decency and fairness. United States law provides for compensation in terrorist situations and this may be an avenue that your organization may want to pursue.

I can assure you that as long as I am your President, we will not normalize our relationship with Iran until it does three critical things. First, it must use its influence with the terrorists in Lebanon to release those Americans held hostage; next, it must change its present position on state supported terrorism; and finally, it needs to show a sincere desire to achieve a lasting peace with Iraq. While there are signs that peace may be coming, there is no indication that Iran has changed its present position on the issues of terrorism or the U.S. hostages.

I hope this explains my position on this very difficult and personally troublesome subject.

Sincerely,

8

584747

Juanita Duggan



LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

Post Office Box 280
Cabin John, MD 20818

July 14, 1988

Office of the President
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of Leadership Foundation and its large influential membership throughout America, I am writing to ask that you reconsider your decision to pay reparations to the families of those killed in the downing of Iran Air Flight 655.

Americans are a good and generous people, Mr. President, and you admirably reflect their best instincts and highest aspirations. Like you, Leadership Foundation mourns the loss of any innocent life. However, Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed through mistaken judgment at a time when the U.S.S. Vincennes was engaged in combat with the military and terrorist forces of Iran. This loss of life was an unfortunate result of Iran's own terrorist activities in the Persian Gulf and throughout the Middle East region.

We urge you to withhold reparations until Iran has made reparations for:

- * Holding and torturing 52 Americans for 444 days in 1979-1980 after seizure of the U.S. Embassy and other American property.
- * The April 1983 car bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, which resulted in the deaths of 174 Americans.
- * The October 1983 car bombing at U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon which resulted in the deaths of 241 young Americans.
- * The January 1984 murder of Malcolm Kerr, president of the American University of Beirut and the presumed murder of Peter Kilburn.
- * The September 1984 car bombing murder of 2 Americans at the U.S. Embassy Annex in East Beirut.
- * The airline hijacking and murder of 2 U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) officials in December, 1984.

The President

We believe, Mr. President, that the payment of reparations to Iran would be a grave injustice and deeply offensive to all those American families whose sons and daughters have been murdered at the hands of this criminal nation. It would be particularly wrong and offensive for the U.S. taxpayers to compensate Iranians while that nation is today holding under cruel conditions nine American hostages after murdering two others.

For the sake of justice and common sense, Mr. President, and out of concern for so many Americans who have also suffered, we urge you to abandon any thought of paying reparations to Iran.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Rountree". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Martha Rountree
President

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 19, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. HARRY H. LEVITCH

SUBJECT: OPPOSES REPARATIONS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE
PASSENGERS OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER SHOT DOWN
BY THE USS VINCENNES

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MATT ZACHARI <i>OPL 0528/28 K/Krue</i>	ORG	88/07/20		C 88/08/10 <i>TR</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>STATE</i>				
<i>NS STEV</i>	D	88/08/08 <i>TR</i>		C 88/08/15 <i>Draft provided</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:	A	88/08/11		C 88/08/16
<i>PL KRUK</i>	A	88/08/16 <i>KK</i>		C 88/08/17 <i>TR</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: FORMER INTERN
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF B'NAI B'RITH

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
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
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1988

Dear Mr. Levitch:

On behalf of President Reagan, thank you for your letter concerning compensation to the families of the victims of Iran Air flight 655.

The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life in the recent downing of Iran Air flight 655 by a U.S. vessel, and has conveyed its position to the Iranian Government and to the other governments of those on board the flight. As the President announced, for humanitarian reasons, the United States will compensate the families of the victims in a way that does not involve the Iranian Government. The United States offer is voluntary and not a matter of legal obligation.

The arrangements for direct payment to the families are currently under study. No compensation will be paid to the Government of Iran for the loss of the aircraft itself, which was owned and operated by the Iranian Government. The United States has not made payment of compensation to the families contingent on changes of behavior by the Iranian Government because this might be interpreted that we are prepared to reward the Iranian Government for change. To make payment contingent on the release of our own hostages indirectly rewards terrorism and hostage-taking.

This tragedy underlines the urgency of ending the most dangerous and destructive source of regional tension -- the Iran-Iraq war. We are working to find a negotiated settlement of the bilateral conflict. Toward that goal, we led the effort in the UN Security Council that resulted in the unanimous passage of Resolution 598 on July 20, 1987. The resolution established a solid basis to ensure a lasting peace by calling for an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal to international borders, the return of prisoners of war, and the establishment of a body to determine responsibility for the war. The United States strongly believes that implementation of Resolution 598 is the best means to achieve a comprehensive, negotiated settlement. Both sides have now accepted that Resolution. The urgent need now is to bring it into practical effect to end the conflict.

The United States will continue to work with the UN Security Council and the Secretary General to bring an end to this tragic war. In the meantime, U.S. military forces will remain in the Gulf to protect our national interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kruke', with a stylized flourish extending to the left.

Kevin Kruke

Special Assistant to the President and
Deputy Director of Public Liaison

Mr. Harry Levitch
Suite 111
5100 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38137

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

5943

August 15, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR SALLY KELLEY

FROM:

PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS *PS*
fn

SUBJECT:

Response to Letter Opposing U.S. Compensation for
Victims of Iran Air 655

The NSC staff approves the attached draft response.

Attachment

Tab A State Transmittal Memo dtd 8/11/88
w/attachments

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 15, 1988

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS

FROM: ROBERT B. OAKLEY *RS*

SUBJECT: Response to Letter Opposing U.S. Compensation for
Victims of Iran Air 655

The attached draft response looks fine.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to Sally Kelley at Tab I.

Approve *RS*

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Stevens Memo to Kelley
Tab A State Transmittal Memo dtd 8/11/88
w/attachments

S/S# 8823887
DATE August 11, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

For: Mr. Paul Schott Stevens
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan
FROM: Mr. Harry H. Levitch
DATE: July 13, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation for victims of Iran Air 655

WH Referral Dated: August 8, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 584748

 The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State

ACTION TAKEN:

- XXX A draft reply is attached
 A draft reply will be forwarded
 A translation is attached
 information copy of a direct reply is attached
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
 cited below
 The Department of State has no objection to the
 proposed travel
 Other (see remarks)

REMARKS:


Director
Secretariat Staff

WHITE HOUSE

10 AUG 11 10:59 ⁸⁸ AUG 12 16:54

RECORD ROOM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DRAFT REPLY

Dear Mr. Levitch:

I am replying to your message to President Reagan concerning the U.S. offer to pay compensation to the families of the victims of Iran Air flight 655.

The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life in the recent downing of Iran Air flight 655 by a U.S. vessel, and has conveyed its position to the Iranian Government and to the other governments of those on board the flight. As President Reagan announced, for humanitarian reasons, the United States will compensate the families of the victims in a way that does not involve the Iranian Government. The U.S. offer is voluntary and not a matter of legal obligation.

The arrangements for direct payment to the families are currently under study. No compensation will be paid to the Government of Iran for the loss of the aircraft itself, which was owned and operated by the Iranian Government. The United States has not made payment of compensation to the families contingent on changes of behavior by the Iranian Government

Mr. Harry H. Levitch,
B'Nai B'Rith International,
Suite 111,
5100 Poplar Avenue,
Memphis, Tennessee.

because this would suggest that we are prepared to reward such changes by paying money to the Iranian Government. To make payment contingent on the release of our own hostages would reward terrorism and hostage-taking.

This tragedy underlines the urgency of ending the most dangerous and destructive source of regional tension -- the Iran-Iraq war. ~~The~~ The United States is working with states in the region and outside it to find a negotiated settlement of the bilateral conflict. ~~Toward~~ Toward that goal, we led the effort in the UN Security Council that resulted in the unanimous passage of Resolution 598 on July 20, 1987. The Resolution establishes a solid basis to ensure a lasting peace by calling for an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal to international borders, the return of prisoners of war, and the establishment of a body to determine responsibility for the war. The United States strongly believes that implementation of Resolution 598 is the best means to achieve a comprehensive, negotiated settlement. Both sides have now accepted that Resolution. The urgent need now is to bring it into practical effect to end the conflict.

The United States will continue to work with the UN Security Council and the Secretary General to bring an end to this tragic war. In the meantime, U.S. military forces will remain in the Gulf to protect our national interests.

Sincerely,

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Sincerely,

8823887

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

AUGUST 8, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 584748

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 13, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. HARRY H. LEVITCH
B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL
SUITE 111
5100 POPLAR AVENUE
MEMPHIS TN 38137

SUBJECT: OPPOSES REPARATIONS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE
PASSENGERS OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER SHOT DOWN
BY THE USS VINCENNES

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

8

584748

HARRY H. LEVITCH

July 13, 1988

8823887

Matt Zakari

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President, The United States of America
1600 Rhode Island Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. President:

As one who has voted for you in each election, contributed to your request for various contributions, and have the utmost respect for you as our President: I feel it my duty as well as my privilege to write this letter.

I am among those who feel it is a great mistake to pay for those killed in the shooting down of the Iranian airline plane without our at least trying to free the hostages. After all, they have bombed our embassies, held embassy personnel hostage for over a year, blew up and killed over 200 of our finest Marines, ruined the Marine barracks in Lebanon, have blown up cars, schools, hospitals and kept our people as hostages and never once for all of this have they offered compensation. So, why are we so big hearted? Even if the shooting down of the airliner has created some doubts; there is no doubt for the terrible wrongs they have done to us.

Please forgive my bothering you with my opinions but I feel we should all tell you how we feel about this matter. I am a Veteran, I vote every time, and I love this great Nation of ours and don't want it to be continually taken advantage of.

I have had the pleasure of meeting you twice, once when Al Spiegel had a cocktail party just before your first election for Presidency at a B'nai B'rith Convention Hotel in Washington together with Mrs. Reagan. It was our great honor.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Harry Levitch
Harry Levitch

hl/s

5100 Poplar Avenue, Suite 111, Memphis, Tennessee 38197, Telephone: 901-761-1188



B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 857-6600

TWX 710-822-0068/Cable BNAIBRITH WASHDC

**Past
International Vice
President**

// Harry Levitch //
Suite 111, Ground Floor
Clark Tower
5100 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38117

901-761-1188

**Honorary Chairman
International
Community Volunteer
Services Commission**

President
Leo N. Levi
National Arthritis
Hospital
Hot Springs, AR 71901

**Board Member
B'nai B'rith
Home for Aged**

**National Security Council
The White House**

mc

88 AUG 15 P 6: 21

System # I
 Package # 5943
 DOCLOG mc AIO

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Perito	<u> 1 </u>	<u> RP </u>	<u> A </u>
Marybel Batjer	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Paul Stevens	<u> 2 </u>	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
John Negroponte	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Colin Powell	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Paul Stevens	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Situation Room	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
West Wing Desk	<u> 3 </u>	<u> </u>	<u> N </u>
NSC Secretariat	<u> 4 </u>	<u> </u>	<u> D </u>

I = Information **A = Action** R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Duberstein Other

COMMENTS Should be seen by:
(Date/Time)



UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8805943
RECEIVED: 12 AUG 88 09

TO: KELLEY, S

FROM: STEVENS

DOC DATE: 15 AUG 88
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: IRAN

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE OPPOSES US COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF IRAN AIR 655

ACTION: PERITO SGD MEMO DUE DATE: 16 AUG 88 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BURNS

LOGREF: 8805946

FILES: WH

NSCIF:

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
OAKLEY

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY RSC DATE 8/15 W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSRCB

CLOSED BY: NSRSC

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 8805943

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 BURNS

Z 88081209 PREPARE MEMO STEVENS TO KELLEY

003 STEVENS

Z 88081517 FOR SIGNATURE

004

X 88081519 PERITO SGD MEMO

UNCLASSIFIED



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