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*Last Updated: 11/06/2023*

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UNEDITED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BACKGROUND BRIEFING  
ON  
IRANIAN AIRBUS COMPENSATION  
TO VICTIMS  
MONDAY, JULY 11, 1988, 3:31 P.M.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Good afternoon. I thought I would just give you a couple of points, and then answer your questions. I won't be very long.

The general principles of international law that govern potential liability for injuries and property damage arising out of military operations are: (1) that indemnification is not required for injuries or damage incidental for the lawful use of armed force; (2) that indemnification is required where the exercise of armed force is unlawful, or where it is grossly negligent; and (3) that states may pay compensation ex gratia, i.e. without acknowledging, and irrespective, of legal liability.

You know our position: Iran is to blame for this tragedy. It must end the war. It should not have sent a passenger liner over a battle zone without instructions, or without the capability of responding to our Navy's repeated warnings. An ex gratia payment is, nonetheless, going to be made. I want to emphasize that it does not signify any concession of liability or fault, but constitutes a humanitarian gesture. It would involve payments to the families of the victims, not to Iran, and the victims, as you know, include people from other countries.

Such a payment would be consistent with the past practice of the United States and of other nations, with the exception of the Soviet Union, with whom we have disagreed on this issue.

And you know that there is an important difference between an ex gratia payment and "reparations" -- it's a word that I've heard used by the press in this context that is inappropriate. We are not paying reparations. "Reparations" is a term of art implying a payment for wrongdoing, particularly associated with wartime activity. We feel we have done no wrong for which a payment would be required. Therefore, this is compensation, yes, but it's compensation ex gratia as a matter of grace, as opposed to compulsion. By that

NSC # 8805204

I don't mean a U.S. marshal is out there compelling the United States to pay -- compulsion meaning that we would regard ourselves as compelled to pay because of the law. We don't, but we're paying anyway, *ex gratia*, for humanitarian reasons.

That's it.

Q Are there precedents?

A There are some precedents. There aren't a very large number, but there are some precedents for payment and for non-payment.

Q Can you cite a couple?

A Well, I can give you some general precedents relating to air disasters of this kind. One was the shooting down of a Libyan airliner by Israel in the 1970s; another was the shooting down of the KAL flight -- two of them, actually -- by the Soviet Union. Another is the shooting down of an El Al flight by Bulgaria some years ago, the 1960s.

Q -- in which they paid or did not pay?

A We know that the Bulgarians paid the Canadians. We do not know if the Bulgarians paid anyone else. One of the things that you deal with in this sort of situation is, you're never entirely sure that you have the facts because it's not like an ordinary litigation that comes to a court with a reported opinion of any kind, or a judgment of any kind. Sometimes these things are done diplomatically with, really, no public revelation of what happened or what the amounts were.

Q What's the precedents for determining the amount that you pay?

A The amount to be paid in an *ex gratia* payment is totally discretionary -- I would want to say that first. It is a discretionary judgment to be made by the state paying. Obviously, a state interested in doing the right thing -- which the United States obviously is -- would look at all the relevant precedents, not just aircraft disasters, but also perhaps ship disasters, oil platform disasters, anything that we can look at in determining amounts to be paid.

But you have to keep in mind certain general distinctions that exist here. First, there are times when a state has friendly relations with another state, and in that situation, the general practice will be for the individuals who have suffered as a result of this accident, or an accident,

would file applications with the state willing to make an ex gratia payment, and would detail the circumstances in case. And then a process would begin in which the state that is willing to make an ex gratia payment would determine the amount, at least with reference to the circumstances perhaps of each case.

In other cases, however, where a state does not have friendly relations with the state from which a victim or a person of the family of a victim comes from, a state might make a general calculation, and set a flat amount for an accident, let us say, or for a person -- on a per person basis in an accident. Any of these methods of settling this kind of a dispute, of settling the amount to be paid in this kind of a situation, any of these methods is permissible under international law. It would depend on the particular circumstances that confronted us.

Q Aren't there some guidelines set by the Warsaw Convention or some other international convention?

A The Warsaw Convention does set guidelines, but for civilian crashes of various kinds. The Warsaw Convention does not apply in the kind of situation that we have here. However, we could look -- any state could look -- to the limits set under the Warsaw Convention as guidance for amounts that might be paid.

Q And do you know what those limits are?

A Well, we have not studied that closely, but they range around the \$20,000 maximum for an accident, per person.

Q Will you be requesting a release from the families of the victims who were paid compensation?

A We definitely will be requesting some kind of a release, and I'll tell you why. First of all, it is the common practice of all nations to request some sort of a release. Second, a release of some kind is required by law under certain authorities that we may have and that we may invoke for payment purposes.

We are not, in this sense, demanding anything in exchange for payment in that an individual may still pursue his or her other remedies, and then come back and say, "Well, we would like to get this payment." We're not telling an individual in advance, "Either now come forward and take what we're offering, or we will not pay you at all later on." We haven't decided yet on when this payment would even occur, let alone when the right to ask for it would end.

Q But if they take it, the release means, "That's it." That's the end of it?

A Yes, it would. The release would say that the recipient of the funds paid releases the United States from all further liability relating to this accident. It's a perfectly ordinary thing that all states do.

Q Will you make the payments to individuals if the individuals, or the families of the victims, will not sign the release?

A We haven't come to any such thing, but I doubt it. I think we may not even be able to, legally. Congress and certain laws require -- and some regulations require -- the obtaining of a release before payment of this kind is made in settlement of a claim.

Q Well, it sounds like, from what we're hearing from you folks and at the White House, that there's a tremendous amount of talk going on within this government about how you would come up with an offer. But it sounds like the United States Government is simply talking to itself. We don't hear anything about your talking to the folks on the other side who have been harmed by the actions of the United States Government.

A Well, it's generally proper for a government to talk to itself before it decides what it wants to do.

Q But at some point, you're going to be talking to them.

A Well, this morning, I think at 11 o'clock, our President announced to you what he had decided to do. At this point, the lawyers are taking over, if you don't mind (laughter) and we will proceed to find an appropriate way to talk to the people or the states involved, and to handle this matter just as we handle other ex gratia payments or claims.

Q Have you decided how much?

A Absolutely not?

Q Or have you decided on the method that you'll use to determine the amount?

A Well, we have traditions and practices that we will follow in going through this exercise.

Q What do you think those criteria are?

A Well, there are a criteria. You would look at -- it depends on what category of case you land up having. If you're in a situation where you're dealing, where you've decided to go and set a flat amount, you would apply one set of criteria. In fact, it would be highly discretionary at that point. It's discretionary anyway, but it would be highly discretionary at that point.

If you're in a situation where individual applications are coming in, and people are talking about what their earnings were, what the earnings of the deceased were, who was counting on the deceased for support would be another factor. The age of the deceased and the earning capacity of the deceased -- these are the kind of things you'd look at, just as you do in a case in the United States, the way you have, every day, to go through the rather grizzly -- it's not a very pleasant thing -- but you have to go through the process of making a rational decision about damages.

Q Doesn't your earlier statement about "friendly" versus "unfriendly" just kind of rule out second method? Or you do have some cases where you have --

A Well, we have seven nations that we're dealing with here, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if we have direct communications with some of them. I would expect that we will. We have no intention whatsoever to pay Iran any money for Iran's benefit. So, that doesn't mean, however, that communications won't take place between the United States and Iran, either directly or through an intermediary.

You must keep in mind that with respect to legal claims, limited strictly to legal claims, we deal with Iran on a daily basis at The Hague. My office deals with Iran on a daily basis at The Hague. So it will be a decision to be made by our political officials -- The Secretary of State, the President -- as to what channels are appropriate for this particular kind of a case. And it may well be that some kind of a legal channel will be set up, and we may talk to Iranian officials about this matter.

Q What's the maximum amount that the Executive Branch can pay out ex gratia without an appropriation by law from Congress?

A There is no established maximum amount.

Q You can pay a limitless amount without an act of Congress?

A But let me get back to the statement that was made this morning: the United States Executive Branch is not authorized to pay a nickel, or a penny, for that matter, to anyone without the authorization of Congress. Now, there is a variety of statutes, particularly statutes relating to the Department of Defense, that authorize payments for accidents of this kind. We would have to look at those statutes -- the Department of Defense legal office would also look at those statutes, we'd all look at those statutes -- and see whether they authorize a payment. And if they do authorize a payment, then we would not need to go to Congress to get authority to pay.

There is a separate question of getting the money -- that's a separate issue. If they do not authorize a payment, then we would have to go to Congress to get authority to pay. We may not need to go to Congress to get the money, depending on the budgetary situation.

So there are two separate issues -- authority to pay and the capacity to pay.

Q But you don't know what the maximum amount of a discretionary payment is under current law?

A Well, there is no maximum that is set under current law, but there are only certain amounts that are available, that have been appropriated under current law.

Q I believe in the Grenada situation that the United States paid compensation to some people, I think, who were injured or killed in a hospital. Do you know what the amount was there?

A I'm not going to talk about amounts at all today, and I'll tell you, very simply, why. We do not want to suggest, directly or indirectly, any particular amount, because what happens in this room is clear to all of us here, but what happens outside, when it's reported, is, "So-and-so mentioned this amount from this incident," so I am not going to talk about any amount with respect to any incident.

I can tell you, however, that the circumstances of that case were very special, and the money was related to the process of aiding the economic recovery in Grenada. So the normal rule, the normal practice, of the United States with respect to damage incidental to a military operation is not to pay at all. We have not paid, and will not pay, with respect to the bombing of Libya; and normally, we do not pay with respect to military engagements.

Here, a decision was made to shoot down an aircraft, and it turned out that the aircraft was not a military aircraft. It is not a situation where you shoot at a proper military target, and cause some incidental damage. So it's a different case. Grenada was very special in that it was a military engagement, but there was a decision made to pay there because of other considerations.

(Continued on the following page.)



Q But wasn't that a matter of public record, the amount that was paid?

A I think that most of these amounts are matters of public record that you can find out for yourselves so that they don't come out of my mouth.

Q You mentioned The Hague, the Tribunal. Are there any outstanding claims by U.S. citizens against the government of Iran for personal death or injury still pending before that Tribunal?

A There are 2,500 claims still, roughly, pending before the U.S.-Iran Tribunal in The Hague of a variety of kinds. Some are individual claims. Many are individual claims. Some are corporate claims, and some are governmental claims.

The claims of the people who were actually trapped in the Embassy and held hostage were abolished, or essentially wiped out by Congress through legislation and there were no claims permitted by those people and there are no claims pending by those people.

Q Are any of the pending claims for death or injury?

A Are any of them? (Asking Staff) No. Property claims.

Q Does the Stark incident, and our claims to the Iraqi Government, provide any basis for calculating the amount we'll offer in this case?

A This is, as I said, a highly discretionary thing where each state has to make a judgment based on all the circumstances as presented to that state.

The Stark incident is a separate incident with very, very different facts. The actions of the fighter aircraft there differ markedly from the actions of our captain who was under immense pressure and had to make a decision virtually in seconds. Whereas, this fighter plane took its time, casually approached and fired missiles at our ship which was not engaged in any kind of activity whatsoever in the area.

So there are many distinctions that can be made between the Stark situation and this one. Obviously, if we were dealing with Iraq on this situation now, as opposed to Iran, I have no doubt that the lawyers on both sides would be discussing both situations simultaneously, in the same

meetings, or whatever, and thinking of the facts -- what's relevant, what's analogous, what isn't analogous. It's complicated but you talk about these things, certainly.

Q Are you saying that the parallels, or the precedents which most closely parallel what happened last week in involve the Israeli downing of a Libyan airliner and the Soviet downing of two KAL airliners and the Bulgarian --

A I wouldn't compare our actions with the Soviet actions at all. They went up in a plane -- they sent fighters up. Those fighters were able to look at what they were going to shoot down and they shot those planes down. This is completely different.

With respect to the shooting down the Libyan airliner, certainly, that's one of the incidents that we are looking at.

Q Are there any other --

Q Did they pay on that.

A Yes.

Q They did?

A They did. They paid.

Q Are there any other precedents which parallel what happened last week that come to mind?

A I gave you the aircraft precedences. I think that you could look at the attack by Israel on the Liberty ship as another incident. There was an attack by Iran on a UAE platform sometime ago in the Gulf. There are scattered through the last 40 years -- even back in the Second World War -- other incidents that we are going to look at.

Q Was the government paid in these cases? Did the Israelis pay us directly, the United States Government, for the damage to the Liberty? And did the Israelis pay the Libyan citizens or the Libyan Government?

A I don't know who the Israelis paid. You can't always find out how it happened. We do know that they paid, or what channel they used.

With respect to the Liberty, and with respect to the Stark claims, the United States Government espouses those claims, espoused the Liberty claims and we are espousing the Stark claims.

When we espouse the claims of our citizens, we take over the claims process and handle it. That isn't necessarily the way proceedings go internationally. The general rule is that people who are damaged, or feel that they are damaged and have some kind of a claim, will file directly with the nation involved. But in special cases like this, it's frequently true that the state will act.

Q In the case of the Liberty and in the case of the Stark, did we espouse benefits for ourselves? That is to say, the United States Government as well as our citizens?

A Yes.

Q For the vessel?

A For the vessel.

Q That's entirely separate because we're not going to pay for the airbus; right?

A That's correct.

Q Can we ask you if it's conceivable that you will pay different nationalities a different amount money given the way you'll have to study this? That is, a UAE citizen might get more money than an Iranian citizen?

A It won't be based on the nationality of the citizen. It is conceivable if a negotiation gets particularized enough so that you look at a person's earnings and you look at the age and you look, for example, how many people that person was supporting and how many years that person was going to be expected by various tables -- life expectancy tables -- to be giving that support. You might land up paying more for one person than another, certainly, by many times, in some cases.

Q How are you going to find that out in the case of Iran? The Iranian Government, presumably, is not going to cooperate?

A We don't know that we ever will find it out. I think we have a huge job ahead of us, a very difficult, careful, painstaking job ahead of us. We have a lot of facts to investigate. We have to develop a record. We have to know who we're paying for. We have to try to control who is going to get the money. We have to determine the amounts that are appropriate. This is going to take time.

Q In that regard, will you require the Iranian Government to make a statement to you at The Hague or elsewhere that they will not take this money from the people?

A I am not going to tell you what I'm going to require now. What I'll tell you is this: I'm going to work with my lawyers and the other lawyers in the Administration. We're going to do what we normally do in a situation. We're going to come up with a proposed method of proceeding with this matter after doing some investigation, talking to various groups that could help us get facts, that could help perhaps steer payments, and these sorts of things. Then we're going to propose various approaches to this problem.

Our political leadership will decide which approaches to take. We will then take the approach chosen and we'll develop a record. Then we will know after that process what we're going to do. We just can't know now. We have the basic principles in place. We're going to make an ex gratia payment because it's right. We know that.

We're not going to pay Iran because that would be wrong. Our political leadership has given that kind of guidance to us, and now they've given us the job of going out there and working on the details and giving them some proposed options.

Q Couldn't Iran go after you in the World Court in an attempt to demonstrate that the action was unlawful or grossly negligent? And what would you do in that case?

A We don't want to comment on the capacity of people to go to any court. There's no end to the capacity of lawyers to file lawsuits. Anyone who lives in this country for any amount of time knows about that.

If such a thing happens, we'll defend the United States there. We certainly think that there's no basis for such a lawsuit.

Q How long do you expect this process to take?

A I am not going to give you any kind of specific guidance on that. I really can't, in all honesty. But I can tell you it is going to take a fairly substantial period of time.

Let me just give you an example that comes home to me quite often because I hear the complaints from my own people.

We are handling the Stark claims. Don't forget that the Stark incident occurred in early 1987. I think it May 17, 1987. We've done a lot of work on that, and we are making good progress on that. But we are still not finished even with the wrongful death claims, and we have yet the accident claims. We've got the claims to the vessel.

We've been going over a year on the Stark claims. So that should tell you something about how long it sometimes takes to process this thing in good faith. These are our claims. We have ever incentive in the world to process those claims quickly. Iraq has agreed from the outset to pay, so there's no dispute there. There's no special things to work out, and it's taking a long time. It just takes a long time.

Q Is that claim for reparations?

A Can I finish my question? It could carry over into the next Administration, then?

A Certainly.

Q Are reparations the nature of that claim, or is it for compensation?

A We have not had to litigate that matter with Iraq. Iraq has offered to pay and accept the liability, essentially, for those injuries.

Q So it's different. It's not ex gratia in that case?

A Iraq may regard it as ex gratia. We are not characterizing it as ex gratia. We don't need to. When a state agrees to pay and to proceed to determine the amounts to be paid in a rational and proper matter, we don't need, with a friendly state, to determine that kind of a matter.

Q Can you clarify point? You said Iraq shouldn't have sent an airliner in a war zone. What did you mean by that?

A Into a place where a battle had just occurred on the water. There had been an exchange of fire between the cruiser and several gun boats. One would think that a nation would have some kind of a duty to inform its civilian air authorities, in a particular place where planes normally fly over -- there had been a major incident -- that that place then is a place where there's greater tension than would normally be expected?

Q Would the outcome of the navy's investigation affect the size of -- without calling it damages -- the ex gratia payments?

A Absolutely not. Let me tell you, that is one of the reasons why it is very important that you realize that there's a difference between an ex gratia payment and a payment based on any kind of culpability or liability.

The reason we've made this decision is humanitarian concern for the families of these people that were killed, these innocent people that were killed. We did not wait -- we have not waited -- for any determination of the degree or anything else relating to our negligence culpability, etc., etc., because the two things are totally unrelated.

Q To clarify two points you've already made. Did you mean to rule out compensation for the airbus itself, or is that still an open question?

A The President did not pass on that in his statement. He did say we are not going to pay anything to Iran. Iran Air is owned by the state of Iran.

Q How are you going to make sure that the money for the relatives of the Iranian victims, it doesn't wind up in the hands of Iran?

A We are going to do our very best. There are intermediary organizations that we work through now in recent years in paying individual citizens in Iran amounts that they have gotten through the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal. One option would be to use those same intermediary organizations. There are other types of approaches to the problem.

We would have to look at all the possible approaches and decide which is the most effective.

Q When you talk about the distinction between a friendly government and an unfriendly government, the flat sum or a variegated one, is the crux of that issue the state of the relationship between the two countries or is it whether you can successfully set up a procedure that you can have confidence in?

A I think both of those things are important. If you don't have a relationship that you can work through on the basis of, then, obviously, you cannot be able to set up a structure. But even if you do have a relationship and you

-14-

can't work out a structure, a state making an ex gratia payment might eventually be driven to the point of just saying, "okay, that's it."

Q My question is, is that a question of logistics and process, or is there a political dimension to that question?

A There's a political dimension as well, ultimately.

Q Some of us are ignorant about what actually happens at The Hague. I didn't realize that you folks were talking directly to the Iranians everyday. In fact, you are. I mean, you actually -- you don't sit down with a third intermediary in a room and say, well, he said; would you pass this on. You actually talk to each other. So, therefore, presumably, you can bring this up starting tomorrow at The Hague; is that right?

A If we were cleared to do so by our principles, yes. Some people think that -- that doesn't mean that people are talking to each other in the Iran and U.S. Governments, because these are lawyers. (Laughter)

Q It all sounds like you have a chicken-and-egg situation here. On the one hand, a lot of expectations that this might present a door opening to really normalize relations between the United States and Iran as a way. On the one hand, you're saying we have no structure in which to work, and yet by doing this you're creating a structure.

Is the problem that you don't have the diplomatic structure in place, or is the problem that you need to create the diplomatic structure somehow through these negotiations?

A Where there's a will there's a way. We will try.

Q Is the Red Crescent an acceptable organization?

A The Red Crescent is an acceptable organization. We have worked with the Red Crescent, and the Iran Red Crescent as well.

(Background briefing concluded at 4:05 p.m.)

**National Security Council  
The White House**

88 JUL 14 A 8: 29

System # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Package # \_\_\_\_\_  
 DOCLOG \_\_\_\_\_ A/O \_\_\_\_\_

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Perito	_____	_____	_____
Marybel Batjer	_____	_____	_____
Paul Stevens	_____	_____	_____
John Negroponte	_____	_____	_____
Colin Powell	_____	_____	_____
Paul Stevens	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	1	_____	FRP

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

cc:    VP                    Baker                    Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS                    Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_  
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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 8805204

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001

X 88071410 NOTED BY POWELL

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NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8805204  
RECEIVED: 14 JUL 88 09

TO: NSC/S

FROM: POWELL

DOC DATE: 11 JUL 88  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: IRAN  
PERSIAN GULF

AVIATION

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: DOS BACKGROUND BRIEFING RE IRANIAN AIRBUS COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS

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ACTION: NOTED BY POWELL DUE DATE: 18 JUL 88 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: NONE LOGREF: 8805114 8805170

FILES: WH NSCIF: CODES:

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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

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OAKLEY  
ROSS  
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TAHIR-KHELI

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSALW CLOSED BY: NSALW DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

17

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 29, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ROGER RAYMOND FISHER

SUBJECT: WRITES ON BEHALF OF MR. RALPH E. MCVEIGH OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA WHO IS VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE RECENT \*

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
KAE RAIRDIN		ORG	88/07/29		C 88/08/11 PY
DOS	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: <u>ATTN: Nick Longworth</u>		R 88/08/11 PY		
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: \* IRANIAN AIRLINE INCIDENT

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200  
IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION              *OUTGOING                *
*                       *                               *CORRESPONDENCE:        *
*A-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         *                               *                               *
*****

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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Aug 11

Pat Yang -

Please close Kae Reinidin  
out. Copies of the  
3 attached correspondences  
were sent to

Nick Longworth at State  
Department for  
a response.

Thank you -  
Mangy McMaster  
x7700

586792

ROGER RAYMOND FISCHER, MEMBER  
OVERLOOK DRIVE  
WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA 15301-9990



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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- STEEL CAUCUS
- COAL CAUCUS
- CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

July 26, 1988

H. Rardin

Handwritten notes

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

Dear President Reagan,

I have been contacted by Ralph E. McVeigh of 1296 Spencer Avenue in Washington, Pennsylvania 15301, Telephone Number (412) 228-7865.

Mr. McVeigh stated that he is very much opposed to any financial assistance being provided to the families of the victims who were involved in the recent Iranian airline incident.

He is very hopeful you will consider his opinion when making any decision. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Roger Raymond Fischer

RRF:ss

CC: Ralph E. McVeigh





THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

2007/

11

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 23, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE B. KEITH WESTMORELAND

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES COPY OF RESOLUTION #12 OPPOSING  
PAYMENT TO THE FAMILIES OF PERSONS WHO LOST  
THEIR LIVES IN THE IRANIAN PLANE DOWNED BY  
THE USS VINCENNES

*compensations*

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	88/08/23	CB	A880829
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2300 \_\_\_\_\_  
IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

- ```

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*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       *                        *                        *
*****

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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.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 29, 1988

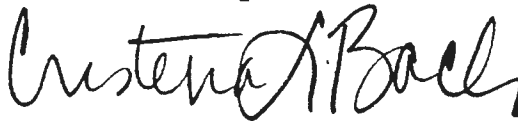
Dear Mr. Westmoreland:

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank you for your recent correspondence regarding compensation to the families of persons who lost their lives in the Iranian plane downed by the USS Vincennes.

A copy of your letter has been forwarded to the appropriate officials at the Department of State for their benefit and consideration.

I sincerely appreciate your sharing your views with the Administration.

Sincerely,



Cristena L. Bach  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Intergovernmental Affairs

Mr. Keith Westmoreland  
Sullivan County Executive  
P.O. Box 509  
Blountville, TN 37617

SHIPPING  
C.C. DOS ✓  
ATTN: IGA  
- 541 -

8  
(re-enclosed)  
C. Bach

E. 11/17

# Sullivan County

P. O. BOX 509  
BLOUNTVILLE, TENNESSEE  
37617



PHONE  
615 / 323-7135

Keith Westmoreland  
County Executive

August 17, 1988

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a copy of resolution # 12, which was passed by the Sullivan County Commission on Monday, August 15, 1988.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Respectfully,

B. Keith Westmoreland

BKW/vm

TO THE HONORABLE KEITH WESTMORELAND, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 15th DAY OF AUGUST, 1988.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REQUEST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FUND PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT U. S. CITIZENS

WHEREAS, TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED; SECTION \_\_\_\_\_, AUTHORIZES COUNTIES TO \_\_\_\_\_

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, assembled in Regular Session on the 15th day of August, 1988,

THAT WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, that the Federal Government is seriously considering the payment of the sum of \$200,000.00 to the families of each of the 290 persons who lost their lives when the commercial carrier of the Iran Airlines was downed or destroyed by mistake by a U. S. Navy vessel in the Persian Gulf, and which would amount to some \$58,000,000.00; and

WHEREAS, this Body is convinced that it would be far better for the Federal Government to spend that sum of money to fund programs for the benefit of the citizens of the United States, millions of whom would be benefited by the use of that money to fund programs of that type;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, duly assembled on this 15th day of August, 1988, that we by means of this Resolution urge the Federal Government through our duly elected representatives that rather than paying approximately \$58,000,000.00 to the families of the persons who lost their lives in the above mentioned tragedy, our Government instead use such sum to provide funding for a program, or programs, designed to benefit the citizens of the United States and alleviate some of the suffering of our own people through programs designed for that purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each of the Congressional Representatives and the Senators for the State of Tennessee and request their help in accomplishing the purposes herein stated.

AMENDED: To forward a copy to The President and State Delegation.

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All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same are rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

This resolution shall become effective on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, the public welfare requiring it.

Duly passed and approved this 15th day of August, 1988.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive

INTRODUCED BY COMMISSIONER ICENHOUR

ESTIMATED COSTS: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER Dingus

FUND: \_\_\_\_\_

|                    |           |          |          |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| COMMISSION ACTION: | Aye       | Nay      | Pass     |
| ROLL CALL          | <u>16</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>4</u> |
| VOICE VOTE         | _____     | _____    | _____    |

|                  |          |             |       |
|------------------|----------|-------------|-------|
| COMMITTEE ACTION | APPROVED | DISAPPROVED | DATE  |
| _____            | _____    | _____       | _____ |
| _____            | _____    | _____       | _____ |

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

*Passed 8/15/88*

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 587394

0071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 24, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JEANNETTE M. WARNER

SUBJECT: ENCLOSES COPY OF RESOLUTION 888-1 OPPOSING  
PAYMENT OF \$200,000.00 TO THE FAMILIES OF THE  
290 PERSONS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON THE  
IRANIAN PLANE DOWNED BY THE USS VINCENNES

| ROUTE TO:<br>OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME)   | ACTION      |                  | DISPOSITION    |                           |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
|                            |                | ACT<br>CODE | DATE<br>YY/MM/DD | TYPE<br>RESP   | C COMPLETED<br>D YY/MM/DD |
| CRISTY BACH                |                | ORG         | 88/08/24         | <del>ORG</del> | C 88/08/29                |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |                |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |                |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |                |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |                |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |                |                           |

COMMENTS:

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ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2300

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

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*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       *                       *                       *
*****

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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.



C. Bach

*Jeannette M. Warner*  
County Executive  
Cumberland County

Box 1, Courthouse  
Crossville, Tenn. 38555

Telephone  
615/484-6165

August 18, 1988

President Ronald Reagan  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Reagan:

Enclosed please find a certified copy of a Resolution passed by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting on August 15, 1988.

The Resolution is self-explanatory.

Sincerely,

*Jeannette M. Warner*  
Jeannette M. Warner  
County Executive

JMW:dkk

enclosure

- cc: Governor Ned McWherter
- Senator Jim Sasser
- Senator Al Gore, Jr.
- Congressman Jim Cooper
- Congressman Bart Gordon
- Congresswoman Marilyn Lloyd
- Senator Anna Belle O'Brien
- Representative Shirley Duer
- Representative I.V. Hillis
- County Executive James Patterson



888-1  
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this board of County Commissioners of Cumberland County, Tennessee, that the Federal Government is seriously considering the payment of the sum of two hundred thousand (\$200,000.00) dollars to the families of each of the 290 persons who lost their lives when the commercial carrier of Iran Airlines was downed by mistake by a U.S. Navy vessel in the Persian Gulf, which would amount to Fifty eight million (\$58,000,000.00) dollars; and

WHEREAS, this body has been asked to join other legislative bodies throughout Tennessee in protesting this expenditure of American taxpayers monies for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, this body is convinced that it would be far better for the Federal Government to spend that sum of money to fund programs for the benefit of the citizens of the United States, millions of whom would be benefited by the use of that money to fund programs of that type,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by this board of County Commissioners of Cumberland County, Tennessee, duly assembled on this 15th day of August, 1988 that we by means of this Resolution urge the Federal Government through our duly elected representatives that rather than paying approximately \$58,000,000.00 to the families of the persons who lost their lives in the above mentioned tragedy, our Government instead use such sum to provide funding for a program, or programs, designed to benefit the citizens of the United States and alleviate some of the suffering of our own people through programs designed for that purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to other county governing bodies, requesting that they pass similar Resolutions.

SPONSORED:

Beecher Frasier  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

APPROVED:

Jeannette M. Warner 8-18-88  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:

Pete Stubb  
COUNTY CLERK

On motion of Commissioner Frasier, second by Commissioner Orme, moved to adopt resolution 888-1.

The motion carried with a voice vote from the Commission present.



STATE OF TENNESSEE, CUMBERLAND COUNTY:

I, Pete Stubbs, County Court Clerk, of said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a full, true and perfect copy of same as appears of record in my office.

Witness my hand and official seal at Office in Crossville, Tennessee, this 18 day of Aug, 1988

*Pete Stubbs*

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETE STUBBS, COUNTY COURT CLERK

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 25, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE RICHARD BECK

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN ON THE PROPOSAL TO PAY  
COMPENSATION TO THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF  
THE IRANIAN PLANE CRASH WHILE NOT SETTLING  
WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE \*

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D
KAE RAIRDIN		ORG	88/08/25		
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

*REC C88/09/0607*

COMMENTS: \* PLANE CRASH IN INDIANAPOLIS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200  
IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

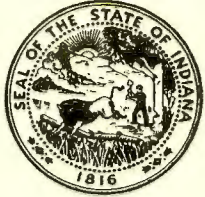
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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                        *                        *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
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*D-DRAFT 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       *                        *                        *
*****

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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.





STATE OF INDIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE,  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

587440

RICHARD "PETE" BECK  
2614 W. 500 N.  
MARION, IN 46952

1987-88  
COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES

August 17, 1988

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan  
President of the United States  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20200

Dear Mr. President:

As a state representative and as an American, I bring to your attention a matter of grave concern to me and many other Hoosiers to whom I have recently spoken. It is my hope that in your great capacity as president, you will be able to resolve what appears to be a very unjust situation.

I read of your administration's decision to compensate the victims' bereaved families of Iran Air Flight 655. Obviously the destruction of this jet is one of history's great military tragedies since it resulted in the death of 290 innocent civilians, and though I do not argue whether the USS Vincennes acted in self-defense or what monetary price the United States government places on human life, I note, however, that our government reached the decision to pay compensation to these non-Americans in a matter of days following the incident.

Meanwhile, I refresh your memory concerning yet another tragedy involving innocent victims in Indiana and the United States government. I am sure you are aware that in October 1987, an Air Force jet malfunctioned and crashed into a Ramada Inn near the airport in Indianapolis claiming the lives of ten men and women.

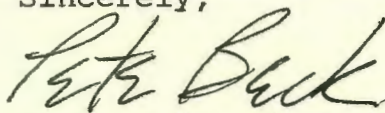
There is a terrible irony which now exists between these two incidents. Are you aware that the federal government, except in one case, has not reached a settlement with the victims' families in Indiana? Does our government quickly assume responsibility for an incident in the Persian Gulf (paying reparations to foreigners) but cannot do the same for Americans for a tragedy on American soil?

Sometimes I feel that our government today no longer places an emphasis on "Americans first" or rather solving our own problems before turning our attention elsewhere. This is not merely a federal oversight, but is seen even in Indiana where our state government offers attractive packages and incentives to lure foreign investment while small businesses owned and operated by Hoosiers fail.

Mr. President, in all due respect, what is wrong? Do I lack pertinent information which would allow me to realize why our government places an emphasis on reaching an agreement half way around the world, but not in Indiana?

I thank you for your consideration in this matter, and though I realize monetary agreements can never truly compensate a family for the loss of loved ones, I look forward to the day when each of these situations are resolved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Beck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard "Pete" Beck  
State Representative

RPB/bw

Mr. President, in all due respect, what is wrong? Do I lack  
sufficient information which would allow me to realize why our  
government pieces an emphasis on reaching an agreement half way  
around the world, but not in Indiana?

I thank you for your consideration in this matter, and  
though I realize monetary agreements can never truly compensate a  
family for the loss of loved ones, I look forward to the day when  
each of these situations are resolved.

Sincerely,  
  
Richard "Tets" Beck  
State Representative

BP/ww

5295

S/S# 8821938  
DATE July 30, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

588258

0071

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

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan  
FROM: President T.H. Francesco Cossiga  
DATE: July 13, 1988  
SUBJECT: Message from President Cossiga of Italy regarding  
Iran Air Flight #655

WH Referral Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
NSC ID# (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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:

President Cossiga is solely thanking President Reagan for sending a message of condolence to the family of an Italian victim of Iran Air Flight 655. A return thank-you message is not necessary.

  
Director  
Secretariat Staff

WHITE HOUSE

08 JUL 30 10:55

10:55 AM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 126596  
CT/PH  
Italian

TEXT OF THE MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

"Mr. President and Dear Friend:

I am sincerely grateful for your message of condolences in the death of an Italian citizen who perished in the downing of the Iranian airliner over the Persian Gulf, and I wish to assure you that your condolences have been conveyed to the victim's family.

Cordially yours,  
Francesco Cossiga"



aj



S/S 8821938

5295

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

588258

July 19, 1988

PY 121

3100

C0071

C0075

FG006-12

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Paul Schott Stevens  
National Security Council Staff

SUBJECT: Alerting NSCS on Presidential  
Correspondence

Enclosed is the original of a letter to President Reagan from President T. H. Francesco Cossiga of the Republic of Italy which is transmitted for your information.

This correspondence was received in the Information Management Section of the Executive Secretariat on July 19, 1988. A copy has been assigned to the appropriate bureau for action.

*Charles G. Jackson, Jr. for*  
Director, S/S-I  
Information Management Section  
Executive Secretariat  
647-3836

Re Italian Citizen Killed on dawning of Iranian jetliner

NSC # 8805295

88 JUL 19 AM: 22

TEXT OF THE MESSAGE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

" Mr.President and dear friend,

While expressing my sincere thanks for your message of condolences for the death of an Italian citizen who perished in the downing of a civilian Iranian jetliner in the Persian Gulf, I wish to assure you that your condolences have been conveyed to the family of the victim.

I remain,

Sincerely yours  
Francesco Cossiga"

TESTO DEL MESSAGGIO DEL SIGNOR PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA  
ITALIANA AL SIGNOR PRESIDENTE DEGLI STATI UNITI.

" Signor Presidente e caro amico,,

nell'esprimerLe il mio sincero ringraziamento per il messaggio di cordoglio per la morte di un cittadino italiano perito a seguito dell'abbattimento dell'aereo di linea iraniano nei cieli del Golfo Persico, desidero assicurarLe di aver trasmesso le Sue condoglianze ai familiari.

Mi creda con il mio memore ed amichevole pensiero.

Francesco Cossiga"

*Ambasciata d'Italia  
Washington*

*L'Ambasciatore*

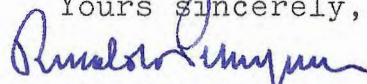
July 13, 1988

*Dear Mr. President,*

I have the honor to convey to you the text of the message addressed to you by the President of the Republic of Italy, T.H. Francesco Cossiga, along with an unofficial translation.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to you, Mr. President, the assurances of my greatest respect and my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Rinaldo Petrignani

---

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

UNCLASSIFIED  
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8805295  
RECEIVED: 19 JUL 88 13

TO: STEVENS

FROM: STEVENS

DOC DATE: 30 JUL 88  
SOURCE REF: 8821938

KEYWORDS: ITALY  
HS

IRAN

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: REPLY FM PRES COSSIGA TO PRES LTR RE ITALIAN CITIZEN KILLED ON IRAN  
AIRBUS

ACTION: NO RESPONSE REQUIRED PER STATE DUE DATE: 22 JUL 88 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: NONE

LOGREF: 8805199

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  
KELLY, B  
LEACH  
LEDSKY  
OAKLEY  
ROSTOW  
STEVENS  
TAHIR-KHELI

COMMENTS: \*\*\* ADD TO FILE \*\*\*

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSWJR

CLOSED BY: NSWJR

DOC 3 OF 3

UNCLASSIFIED



8



8





UNCLASSIFIED  
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 8805295

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001	X	88071914	FOR RECORD PURPOSES
003	Z	88080115	RECD STATE MEMO
003	X	88080115	NO RESPONSE REQUIRED PER STATE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

5306

588259

00071

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8822009

DATE July 26, 1988

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Reagan  
From: His Highness Shaikh Jaber AlAhmed AlSabah  
Date: 18 July 1988  
Subject: Alerting NSCS on Presidential Correspondence

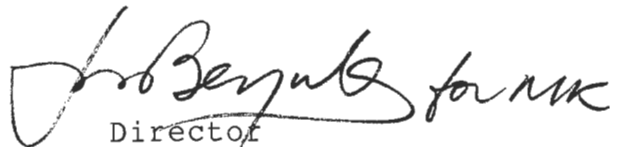
WH Referral Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
NSC ID # (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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.
- An 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: The Amir is thanking the President for his letter, so  
no further response is necessary.

  
Director  
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

HOUSE

88 JUL 27

260150

A 7: 06

10: 43

UNCLASSIFIED

S/S 8822009

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

5306

July 19, 1988

588259

3100

00071



MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Paul Schott Stevens  
National Security Council Staff

0083

SUBJECT:

Alerting NSCS on Presidential  
Correspondence

FG006-12

Enclosed is the original of a letter to President Reagan from His Highness Shaikh Jaber AlAhmed AlSabah of Kuwait which is transmitted for your information.

This correspondence was received in the Information Management Section of the Executive Secretariat on July 19, 1988. A copy has been assigned to the appropriate bureau for action.

*Charles G. Jackson, Jr.*  
Director, S/S-I  
Information Management Section  
Executive Secretariat  
647-3836

Acknowledgment of message on shooting down Iranian

Airliner

NSC# 8805306

88 JUL 19 P 4: 23

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

سِفَارَةُ دَوْلَةِ الْكُوَيْتِ  
وَأَشْنَطِن

KEC: 28/88

The Embassy of the State of Kuwait presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to enclose herewith a message from His Highness Shaikh Jaber AlAhmed AlSabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, addressed to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America.

The Embassy of the State of Kuwait avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration.

Washington, D. C.

July 18, 1988



EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES ON THE  
DEATH OF OUR KUWAITI FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN WHO HAVE LOST  
THEIR LIVES AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT OF THE  
IRANIAN AIRLINER SHOT DOWN.

WHILE THANKING YOU IN THE NAME OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES  
OF VICTIMS, THE PEOPLE OF KUWAIT AND FOR MYSELF I WISH  
TO EXPRESS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO THE FRIENDLY  
AMERICAN PEOPLE OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR YOUR  
CONDOLENCES.

NO DOUBT, SUCH TRAGIC ACCIDENT SHOULD PROMPT THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PUT AN END TO THIS WAR AS  
SOON AS POSSIBLE TO KEEP AWAY THE GULF FROM ITS WOES.

AVAILING MYSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND YOU OUR MOST  
CORDIAL GREETINGS.

JABER ALAHMED ALSABAH  
AMIR OF KUWAIT



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

سِفَارَةُ دَوْلَةِ الْكُوَيْتِ  
وَأَشْنَطِن

KEC: 28/88

The Embassy of the State of Kuwait presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to enclose herewith a message from His Highness Shaikh Jaber AlAhmed AlSabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, addressed to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America.

The Embassy of the State of Kuwait avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration.

Washington, D. C.

July 18, 1988



EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF OUR KUWAITI FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER SHOT DOWN.

WHILE THANKING YOU IN THE NAME OF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF VICTIMS, THE PEOPLE OF KUWAIT AND FOR MYSELF I WISH TO EXPRESS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO THE FRIENDLY AMERICAN PEOPLE OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR YOUR CONDOLENCES.

NO DOUBT, SUCH TRAGIC ACCIDENT SHOULD PROMPT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PUT AN END TO THIS WAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO KEEP AWAY THE GULF FROM ITS WOES.

AVAILING MYSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND YOU OUR MOST CORDIAL GREETINGS.

JABER ALAHMED ALSABAH  
AMIR OF KUWAIT

UNCLASSIFIED  
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8805306  
RECEIVED: 19 JUL 88 17

TO: STEVENS

FROM: LEVITSKY, M

DOC DATE: 26 JUL 88  
SOURCE REF: 8822009

KEYWORDS: KUWAIT  
HS

IRAN

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR FM AMIR TO PRES RE MSG OF CONDOLENCES ON IRANIAN AIRLINER  
SHOT DOWN

ACTION: NO RESPONSE REQUIRED PER STATE      DUE DATE: 22 JUL 88      STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: NONE

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  
OAKLEY

COMMENTS: \*\*\* ADD TO FILE \*\*\*

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSCLG      CLOSED BY: NSCLG      DOC 3 OF 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED  
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 8805306

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001  
003  
003

X 88071917 FOR RECORD PURPOSES  
Z 88072913 RECD STATE MEMO  
X 88072913 NO RESPONSE REQUIRED PER STATE

