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00071

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) / /

Name of Correspondent: George C. Hammond

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) (B) (C)

Subject: Compensation to families of Iranian airbus accident

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>W Holland</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>88, 07, 14</u>			<u> / / </u>
<u>WATRY</u>		Referral Note: <u>A/D</u>	<u>88, 07, 14</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>88, 07, 18</u>
		Referral Note:				<u> / / </u>
		Referral Note:				<u> / / </u>
		Referral Note:				<u> / / </u>
		Referral Note:				<u> / / </u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: Overtaken by events. No further action necessary.

C. Dean McGrath, Jr. 13-89

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: _____ Individual Codes: _____

Prime Subject Code: _____ Secondary Subject Codes: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C		Time: _____	P- _____
DSP		Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package**
- C - Copy**
- D - Official document**
- G - Message**
- H - Handcarried**
- L - Letter**
- M - Mailgram**
- O - Memo**
- P - Photo**
- R - Report**
- S - Sealed**
- T - Telegram**
- V - Telephone**
- X - Miscellaneous**
- Y - Study**

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 12, 1988

TO A. B. CULVAHOUSE

FROM: Marlin Fitzwater

This looks like it's for
you.

To: Dean
Nixon

AB
This looks like
something you'd want
to refer to Dean
Nixon

DEWEY, BALLANTINE, BUSHBY, PALMER & WOOD

101 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK 10178

140 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 10008

TELEPHONE: (212) 808-1100 TELECOPIER: (212) 808-2101, 2, 3

TELEX: 901289 OR 12-8825

CABLE ALL OFFICES: DEWBLAW

1776 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE: (202) 898-1000
TELECOPIER: (202) 898-1095
TELEX: 887070

333 SOUTH HOPE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071
TELEPHONE: (213) 626-3300
TELECOPIER: (213) 626-0882

8385 TOWN CENTER ROAD
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33432
TELEPHONE: (305) 391-6300
TELECOPIER: (305) 391-6798

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO:

M. Martin Fitzwater

THIS TRANSMITTAL IS FROM: G. Hammond

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET 3

PANAFAX UP 640 (212) 808-2101

PANAFAX UP 640 (212) 808-2102

PANAFAX UP 640 (212) 808-2103

DATE 7/12/88 TIME OF TRANSMISSION 10:30

IF YOU EXPERIENCE PROBLEMS IN RECEIVING, PLEASE CALL US ON
(212) 808-2400 or (212) 808-2401

S

TELECOPIER OPERATOR

88 JUL 13 A9:04

July 12, 1988

BY TELECOPY

President Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Attention: Mr. Marlin Fitzwater

Dear President Reagan:

The discussion of compensation for the families of those who died when the U.S. accidentally destroyed an Iranian passenger plane is warranted. However, for obvious policy reasons the payment of compensation should be made intelligently, expressing both our dismay with Iran's current actions in the Persian Gulf and with its past actions in not protecting our embassy personnel in Teheran.

I have an idea of how to structure the compensation to express that dismay and the idea that Iran shares the responsibility for the accident:

(1) Decide on a set amount to be given directly to the families of each of the deceased.

(2) Give 100% of that amount to the families of each of the deceased who were not Iranian citizens.

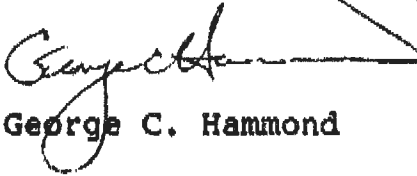
(3) Give 10% of that amount to the families of each of the deceased who were Iranian citizens.

(4) Give the rest of the compensation (the other 90% for each Iranian) pro rata to the Americans who were held hostage during 1979 (or their heirs), and state that since Iran has never made reparation to our citizens, we are using 90% of what we would have given to Iranian citizens to lessen the damage Iran's failure has caused our citizens.

(5) Suggest publicly that the Iranian government reconsider its decision not to make reparations to our citizens and state that any future Iranian reparations to be paid to our citizens may first be used to pay the other 90% of the set amount to the families of each of the deceased who were Iranian citizens.

Please have one of your assistants call me at (212) 808-2084 if a discussion of my reasons for this approach to the problem is desirable.

Sincerely,



George C. Hammond

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CO 071

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CS

- O - OUTGOING
 - H - INTERNAL
 - I - INCOMING
- Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 88107113-

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Harvey Thiede -

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Writer is against compensating the families of those killed in the downing of the Iranian Air bus.

ROUTE TO:		ACTION	DISPOSITION		
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	<u>CoKell</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>88107118</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>88107129</u> TR
	<u>dot</u>	<u>Referral Note:</u>	<u>8810721</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>8810728</u> TR
		<u>Referral Note:</u>	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>Referral Note:</u>	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>Referral Note:</u>	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		<u>Referral Note:</u>	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>

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- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
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Comments: _____

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: 2 Individual Codes: 4000 _____

Prime Subject Code: CO 011 _____ Secondary Subject Codes: FI 001 02 _____
ND 016 _____
CA 001 _____

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DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

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- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

8822314

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

REFERRAL

JULY 21, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 596378

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 11, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. HARVEY THIEDE
3230 ROOSEVELT
DEARBORN MI 48124

SUBJECT: WRITER IS AGAINST COMPENSATING THE FAMILIES
OF THOSE KILLED IN THE DOWNING OF THE
IRANIAN AIR BUS

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

S/S# 8822314
DATE July 28, 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. Harvey Thiede
DATE: July 11, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation for victims of Iran Air 655

WH Referral Dated: July 21, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 596378

 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
 XXX 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:

R. Nicholas Burns
Director
Secretariat Staff

WHITE HOUSE

88 JUL 28 PM 10:35

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

88 JUL 29 AM 6:48



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 28 1988

Mr. Harvey Thiede
3230 Roosevelt
Dearborn, Michigan 48124

Dear Mr. Thiede:

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 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 is working with states in the region and outside it 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 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 yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Redman".

Charles E. Redman
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs and
Department Spokesman

Military Order of the Purple Heart, U. S. A., Inc.

— Chartered by Act of Congress —



S Kelley

July 11, 1988

Ronald Reagan, President
 United States of America
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
 Washington, D. C., 20012

Dear Mr. Reagan;

In times of war - In times of conflict such as our
 Fleet in the Persian Gulf - was and is being attacked
 by Iran; I see no reason for our Government to
 award any compensation to the survivors of the
 Iranian Bus that our Fleet Captain ordered to be
 shot down.

Who knows what this Air Ship carried and what if it
 were the reverse.

Sincerely

Harvey Thiede
 Harvey Thiede
 Past National Commander

3230 Roosevelt
 Dearborn, MI., 48124

(313) 565-0675

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676006

Library of the State of New York

Albany, N. Y.



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ID # 596712
CO 071

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 88 07 21

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. James C. Kellogg

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: opposed to reparation for families of Iranian airline accident

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	<u>CoHyde</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>88/07/21</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>88/10/29</u>
	<u>DOS</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>88/07/26</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>88/10/28</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>

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S/S# 8822711
DATE July 28, 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. James C. Kellogg
DATE: July 15, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation for victims of Iran Air 655

WH Referral Dated: July 26, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 596712

 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

XXX 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:

R. Nicholas Burns
Director
Secretariat Staff

WHITE HOUSE

88 JUL 23 P10:35

1 000 000 000 000

88 JUL 29 A 6: 48



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 28 1988

Mr. James C. Kellogg
105 West Madison Street
Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Mr. Kellogg:

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 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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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 yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Redman".

Charles E. Redman
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs and
Department Spokesman

8822711

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

REFERRAL

JULY 26, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 596712

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 15, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. JAMES C. KELLOGG
105 WEST MADISON STREET
SUITE 1500
CHICAGO IL 60602

SUBJECT: OPPOSED TO REPARATION FOR FAMILIES OF
IRANIAN AIRLINE ACCIDENT

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

JAMES C. KELLOGG

ATTORNEY AT LAW
105 WEST MADISON STREET - SUITE 1500
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
(312) 782-6463

July 15, 1988

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

Dear Mr. President:

There is nobody in our country who does not regret the 290 lives lost when an Iranian jet was shot down recently. There has been and there will be, for a long time to come, disputes over the facts which led to this occurrence. There will probably be a strong volume of national and international opinion directed against our government, the military, the Navy, and particularly the personnel who operated the "U.S.S. Vincennes" at the time of the occurrence.

I would preface my remarks with two items. I was particularly pleased to vote for you in 1980 and again in 1984. I believe in the aggregate your Administration's programs, achievements, and accomplishments have vindicated the trust in you and the Republican Party.

The other prefatory remark is the nature and duration of my military service during World War II. Prior to World War II, I would imagine that only a minority of the population had any concept of the location or qualities of the country anciently known as Persia, and more recently known as Iran. I was stationed there for more than twenty-four months, and left the country on the last U.S. military ship at the conclusion of the year, 1945. I was a military police officer and had numerous contacts with middle-level government people of the State of Iran and justifiably formed very definite impressions of the populations and its intellectual and moral values. There will be categorical statements made by Iranians of high office about the background of the destruction of the Iranian plane. I will state categorically, from my experience, that the Iranians as a whole are liars. They do not have any concept of the morality of truthfulness. Any other American or British military personnel who served in the Persian Gulf Command would corroborate this opinion.

Already, I have read one newspaper columnist's urging that the United States immediately offer reparations to the families of those killed. Of course, there is a distinct difference be-

The Honorable Ronald Reagan

July 15, 1988

Page Two

tween conduct of a country as an entity versus the conduct of its individual citizens. There is no reason to believe that the 290 people who perished on the plane individually committed any crimes or wrongdoings which would justify their sad end. However, the conduct of the Iranian government, both in recent months and reaching back, has been immoral and unjustifiable. Before the U.S. pays Dollar One in reparations, the question may be asked, what reparations would be furnished for the so-called hostages, who were held brutally and wrongfully for many months? This was a deliberate violation of international law; it was approved and commended by the existing government. Those people were wrongfully imprisoned, and saw parts of their lives destroyed. I am sure that many of them have suffered severe mental and physical ailments. That entire program was premeditated by the Iranian government; it did not come as a result of imminent crisis which had to be solved within a period of minutes.

The second item by way of background would be the Russian downing of the Korean jet. What reparations did Russia pay? At the time and place of the Korean jet downing, there were no combat conditions; there was no apparent consequential threat to Russian personnel. There is a vast difference, therefore, between the two shootings.

When the Iranian government and its military engaged in dangerous and provocative acts in the Persian Gulf, they took a calculated risk that some dangerous and unwanted occurrences would take place. They sought to disturb the welfare and very lives of millions of people, not only in the USA, but also in Britain, France, Japan, Italy, etc. They launched cheap attacks; that is, they used relatively small water vessels and crews to lay mines and launch torpedoes in the hopes of securing damage to substantial war vessels and substantial losses of lives. They were urged by the United Nations and other disinterested entities to cease their belligerent conduct in the Persian Gulf.

If they chose to engage in this dangerous course of conduct, they should have been extremely vigilant about the welfare of their citizens; they should have routed their aircraft very far away from any foreign vessels; probably, a short distance such as fifteen or twenty miles might have made the difference. It is quite possible that the Iranian military informed their pilots to see how close they could come to U.S. ships and how much surveillance

The Honorable Ronald Reagan

July 15, 1988

Page Three

they could engage in. We are told that at the time of the occurrence, the U.S. ship was engaged with a couple of small Iranian patrol boats. For the ship's master to conclude that an oncoming aircraft was part of this maneuver would certainly be reasonable.

I believe, from what I have read, that under the circumstances in a military situation, the ship's commander cannot be concerned with a nicety whether that aircraft was belligerent or not. I would rather read about the downing of an Iranian plane with 290 passengers than about the sinking of a U.S. cruiser with a large complement of officers and men. As to any statement made by the Iranians, either officially or unofficially, I would view it with a great deal of scepticism. I would be opposed to the payment of any reparations by our government. By the same token, I would believe that the ship's officers and crew should be given a full vote of confidence.

Respectfully yours,



James C. Kellogg

JCK:eg

Copies: The Chicago Tribune
American Legion National Headquarters

8

CO 071

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
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- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 88107117

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. S. Harry Bergman

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Re: sending money to the families of the victims of the Iranian air crash.

ROUTE TO:		ACTION	DISPOSITION			
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	CoKell	ORIGINATOR	88107121		C	88107129 TR
	✓ Ross	Referral Note: R	88107126 TR		A	88107128 TR
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		Referral Note:	1 1			1 1
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- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4660 _____

Prime Subject Code: CO 071 Secondary Subject Codes: ND016 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

S/S# 8822712
DATE July 28, 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 Bergman
DATE: July 12, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation for victims of Iran Air 655

WH Referral Dated: July 26, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 596713

 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
 XXX 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:

R. Nicholas Burns
Director
Secretariat Staff

WHITE HOUSE

88 JUL 28 P10 : 34

RECORDS ROOM

88 JUL 29 A 6: 47



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Mr. S. Harry Bergman
P.O. Box 7998
Tyler, Texas 75711

JUL 28 1988

Dear Mr. Bergman:

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 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 is working with states in the region and outside it 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 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 yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Redman".

Charles E. Redman
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs and
Department Spokesman

8822712

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

REFERRAL

JULY 26, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 596713

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 12, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. S. HARRY BERGMAN
POST OFFICE BOX 7998
TYLER TX 75711

SUBJECT: REGARDING SENDING MONEY TO THE FAMILIES OF
THE VICTIMS OF THE IRANIAN AIRCRASH

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

CON

8822712

596710

11
DOS



S. Harry Bergman
Petroleum Geologist

PINERIDGE OFFICE
P.O. BOX 7998
TYLER, TEXAS 75711

TELEPHONE
(214) 839-6265 OFFICE
(214) 839-2557 HOME

July 12, 1988

President Ronald Reagan
The Whitehouse
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

I must express my intense disappointment with your decision to send our tax money to Iran. They will make a bigger fool of you than they made of former President Carter. How do you think you will look when it comes out that this was a deliberate setup?

You cannot buy Iranian or world opinion with money. The very people you try to pay will still curse and hate the U.S.A. In your heart you may feel this is the right thing to do, but the vast majority of Americans think you are wrong on this. From a practical point, the lawyers and banks will get most of the money, and the anti-American Iranians will get what is left.

Yours very truly,

S. Harry Bergman

jj

OK Kelly

8833012

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY



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

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

20071
8822863

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 88 07 21

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. Ernest M. Grubb

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Against reparation to Iranian families due to downing of plane by U.S. navy. Lost a nephew in Persian Gulf April 18th. Angry that Govern-
ment did not pay his parents expenses for arlington Cemetery Burial

ROUTE TO: menty did not pay his parents expenses for arlington Cemetery Burial

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	<u>Corono</u> <u>Collyde</u>	ORIGINATOR	88/07/22	OH	A	88/10/26

Referral Note: D 88/07/27 C 88/10/16

Referral Note: for WH signature

Referral Note: _____

Referral Note: _____

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

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- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

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- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000 _____

Prime Subject Code: CD 011 _____ Secondary Subject Codes: ND 016 _____ FG 015 _____
ND 001 _____ CD 001-01 _____
FI 001-02 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
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DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

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- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

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- n - 0 - Unknown
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- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

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- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

883589

August 26, 1988

Dear Mr. Grubb:

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.

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 governments of people of other nationalities 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 is working with states in the region and outside it to find a negotiated settlement of the bilateral conflict. Toward that goal, we led the effort in the United Nations 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 Security Council and the U.N. 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.

We understand your sentiments regarding this issue and want you to know that we were all deeply saddened by your nephew's death last April in the Persian Gulf. Your nephew performed with honor and skill every task that was assigned to him, and he did all that his commanders asked of him. Your loss is shared by everyone who cherishes the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

We regret that your sister and brother-in-law were apparently not made aware of the Navy's policy of reimbursing some travel expenses for the next of kin to attend funerals of personnel killed in the line of duty. We are sorry to learn that your family incurred additional expenses at such a difficult time. If you have additional questions regarding this policy, you may wish to contact Captain Judy Smith at the Department of the Navy, 703-695-0191.

We appreciate the time you took to write and share your views with the President. You have his best wishes.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Earnest M. Grubb
Route 2, Box 384
Littleton, North Carolina 27850

AVH/DOS/NSC/CAD/AVH/emu

(pc-8avh)


To: cad

As language at end of
para 4 + into 5 still

O.K. ?

yes - negotiations
are going on to
implement the
UN res. -- see the
attached. Our
language is general
enough to fly ...

Com



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DRAFT REPLY

Dear Mr. Grubb:

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.

The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life in the recent downing of Iran Air 655 by a U.S. vessel, and has conveyed its position to the Iranian Government and to the ~~other~~ governments of ^{people of other nationalities} ~~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

Mr. Earnest M. Grubb
Route 2, Box 384,
Littleton, North Carolina 27850.

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 is working with states in the region and outside it to find a negotiated settlement of the bilateral conflict. Toward that goal, we led the effort in the *United Nations* ~~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 ^{U.N.} 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.

GRUBB.880822

We understand your sentiments regarding this issue and ^{wants you to} ~~we~~

^{knows that we were all} ~~are~~ deeply saddened ^{by} ~~to learn of~~ your nephew's death last

April in the Persian Gulf. Your nephew performed with

honor and skill every task that was assigned to him, and he

did all that his commanders asked of him. ~~His death is~~

~~cause for grief for all of us, and your loss is shared by all~~ ^{everyone}

who cherish ^{as} the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

We regret that your sister and brother-in-law were ^{apparently} not made

aware of the Navy's policy of reimbursing some travel

expenses for the next of kin to attend funerals of personnel

killed in the line of duty. We are sorry to learn that your

family ^{incurred} ~~needed to incur~~ additional expenses at such a

difficult time. If you have additional questions regarding

this policy, you may wish to contact Captain Judy Smith at

the Department of the Navy, 703-695-0191.

We appreciate the time you took to write ^{and share your views with the President.} ~~the President and~~

you have his best wishes.

Sincerely,

AMH

We understand your personal concern regarding this important issue, and were deeply saddened to learn that your nephew gave his life in the service of his country. We understand that the Navy provides transportation and some expenses for next of kin to attend funerals of personnel killed in the line of duty. If you have further questions, please contact the Department of Navy. We appreciate the time you took to write to the President.

Sincerely,

See replacement page

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/23/88

TO: Anne

ACTION:

- Review/Approval
- Recommendation
- Information Copy
- Draft Reply
- As we discussed

DATE ACTION NEEDED:

COMMENT: NSC/DOS draft presumed
we hadn't written to nephew's
family, but we did. RVL
revised, + I've edited, second-
ingly.

CHARLES A. DONOVAN *Caro*
Presidential Correspondence
Room 94, OEOB - x7610

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

5976

August 16, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR SALLY KELLEY

FROM: PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS *Paul
AS*

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 7/14/88
w/attachments

8/2

Ann: —

As you requested,
I've rewritten the second
to last paragraph (see
attached draft titled
"GRUBS"). Please review.

Thanks,
JSS

8/16

BAB -

See last paragraph.
I'm sure we did a
letter on the helicopter
crew lost in the Gulf.
Verify + rewrite paragraph
accordingly.

Thanks.

CB

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 15, 1988

ACTION**SIGNED**

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS

FROM: ROBERT B. OAKLEY *Rob*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 *Rob*

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Stevens Memo to Kelley

Tab A State Transmittal Form dtd 7/14/88
w/attachments

UNCLASSIFIED

3976

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8822863

Date August 13, 1988

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Reagan

From: Mr. Earnest M. Grubb

Date: July 14, 1988

Subject: Against reparation to Iranian families due to downing
of Iran Air 655; also angry that U.S. Government
did not pay parents expenses for nephew's burial

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:

Philip Zelikow
Part

Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DRAFT REPLY

Dear Mr. Grubb:

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.

The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life in the recent downing of Iran Air 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

Mr. Earnest M. Grubb
Route 2, Box 384,
Littleton, North Carolina 27850.

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 is working with states in the region and outside it 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 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.

We understand your personal concern regarding this important issue, and were deeply saddened to learn that your nephew gave his life in the service of his country. We understand that the Navy provides transportation and some expenses for next of kin to attend funerals of personnel killed in the line of duty. If you have further questions, please contact the Department of Navy. We appreciate the time you took to write to the President.

Sincerely,

8822863

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

REFERRAL

JULY 27, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 596811

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 14, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. EARNEST M. GRUBB
ROUTE 2, BOX 384
LITTLETON NC 27850

SUBJECT: AGAINST REPARATION TO IRANIAN FAMILIES DUE TO
DOWNING OF PLANE BY U.S. NAVY - LOST A
NEPHEW IN PERSIAN GULF APR 18TH - ANGRY THAT
GOVERNMENT DID NOT PAY HIS PARENTS EXPENSES
FOR ARLINGTON CEMETARY BURIAL

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

318

CRITICAL

596811

8822863

Littleton, NC.

July 14, 1988

CAD

Dear Mr. President,

I was upset several years ago when my military retired pay was cut, while other top officials in Washington D.C. received a big increase.

I got over that, but when I read in the paper and saw on T.V. that the United States was going to compensate for the downed Iranian jetliner that was the straw that broke the camels back.

Did we get anything for our hostages in Tehran, did we get anything for our marines killed in Lebanon? No. I lost my nephew on the 18th of April to hostile fire in the Persian Gulf when the attack helicopter he was flying was downed and my sister and brother in-law, his mother and father had to pay their own way to Arlington

—
National Cemetary where he was buried.

What is wrong with America
Mr. President when these things
happen?

I voted for you and have
supported you thus far; but
this is it. In November I
shall vote for Mr. Dukakis.
As an American citizen and
tax payer, we need a change.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Earnest M. Hubb
Littleton, N.C.

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8805976
RECEIVED: 15 AUG 88 09

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: GRUBB, EARNEST M

DOC DATE: 14 JUL 88
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: IRAN . MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE IRANIAN FAMILIES DUE TO DOWNING OF IRAN AIR 655 ALSO ANGRY
THAT US GOVERNMENT DID NOT PAY PARENTS EXPENSE FOR NEPHEWS BURIAL

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO STEVENS TO KELLEY DUE DATE: 18 AUG 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
TAHIR-KHELI

FOR INFO
LEACH
OAKLEY
ROSTOW

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSRCB CLOSED BY: DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 8805976

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 BURNS
003 STEVENS
004

Z 88081509 PREPARE MEMO STEVENS TO KELLEY
Z 88081609 FOR SIGNATURE
X 88081615 STEVENS SGD MEMO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8805976
RECEIVED: 15 AUG 88 09

TO: KELLEY, S

FROM: STEVENS

DOC DATE: 16 AUG 88
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: IRAN

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE REPARATION TO IRANIAN FAMILIES DUE TO DOWNING OF IRAN AIR 655
ALSO ANGRY THAT US GOVT DID NOT PAY PARENTS EXPENSE FOR NEPHEWS

ACTION: STEVENS SGD MEMO DUE DATE: 18 AUG 88 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BURNS LOGREF:

FILES: WH NSCIF: CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY RB DATE 8/16 W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSRCB

CLOSED BY: NSRCB

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

74

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C 0071
8822864

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 88107110

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. John V. Waltz

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Writer is opposed to compensating the families of those killed in the Iranian air crash.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	<u>Cokell</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>88107122</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>88108101</u>
	<u>Doz</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>88107122</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>88107129</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

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- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000 _____

Prime Subject Code: CO 071 Secondary Subject Codes: ND 016 FG 015
ND 001 CO 001-07
FI 001-02 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

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- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

285089

S/S# 8822864
DATE July 27, 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. John V. Waltz
DATE: July 7, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation to victims of Iran Air 655

WH Referral Dated: July 27, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 596815

 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
 XXX 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



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 29 1988

Mr. John V. Waltz
717 State Street
LaPorte, Indiana 46350

Dear Mr. Waltz:

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 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 is working with states in the region and outside it 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 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 yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Redman". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

Charles E. Redman
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs and
Department Spokesman

8822864

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

REFERRAL

JULY 27, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 596815

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 7, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. JOHN V. WALTZ
717 STATE STREET
LAPORTE IN 46350

SUBJECT: WRITER IS OPPOSED TO COMPENSATING THE
FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED IN THE IRANIAN
AIR CRASH

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

8822864

PAST

Office of the President and Chairman of the Board

John V. Waltz

717 State Street
LaPorte, IN 46350

association office:

Suite 100
1011 N. West Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 236-6334



DOS

Skalley

July 7, 1988

593815

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

Dear President Reagan:

I would like to take a minute of your time to express my opinion on the discussion that is surely to take place concerning compensation to the families of those aboard the Iranian airliner that was shot down by our Navy.

During these discussions I would hope the memory of our Marines who died in the bombing of their barracks in Beriut, the victims of airline & ship hijackings, and of hostages who have died or who are being held by terrorist factions is taken into account.

The loss of any life, whether American or Iranian is a tragedy. Life cannot be replaced or compensated for by any means. However, there is a distinct difference between life that is lost by accident and life that is taken by intent. The sorrow is just as great in either case, but the deliberate taking of life can cease if so desired.

Therefore, until the loss of American blood and suffering is recognized by the Iranian government to be as significant as the loss of Iranian blood and suffering, America should not be forced into a guilt trip for it's accidental actions.

I strongly believe that at this time our compassion and feelings should be with the Captain of the USS VINCENNES and the men of that ship who must live with their actions and what they believed at that moment to be the defense of their ship and lives.

Respectfully,

John V. Waltz
John V. Waltz

1952



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60071

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

8822865

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 88107114

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. David Ross

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Opposed to compensating families of the Iranian air crash.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	<u>CoKell</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>88107122</u>			<u>C 88108101</u>
	<u>Doz</u>	R	<u>88107127</u>			<u>A 88107129</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
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- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

285787

S/S# 8822865
DATE July 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. and Mrs. David C. Ross
DATE: July 12, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation to victims of Iran Air 655

WH Referral Dated: July 27, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 596817

 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

XXX 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



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 29 1987

Mr. and Mrs. David C. Ross
423 South Chestnut
Windsor, Illinois 61957

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ross:

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.

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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 yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Redman".

Charles E. Redman
Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs and
Department Spokesman

8822865

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

REFERRAL

JULY 27, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 596817

MEDIA: LETTER,

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. DAVID ^{and Mrs.} ROSS
423 SOUTH CHESTNUT
WINDSOR IL 61957

Mr. and Mrs. David C. Ross

SUBJECT: OPPOSED TO COMPENSATING FAMILIES OF THE
IRANIAN AIR CRASH

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

30
H.H.S.

8822865

423 S. Chestnut

Windsor, Ill.

July 12, 1988

596817

Dear Mr. President,

5. Kelly As you have been our President these past eight years we have prayed for you, & we have supported you even when opposition against you was strong. We have seen what course America has taken since you were first elected. We are proud of you and our country. However, on your wanting to compensate the Iranian families we strongly disagree with you. I'm sure you know far more details on what took place that day than we the common American does. Maybe the threat of war is there if we don't do something. My husband is a member of the Illinois National Guard and I would hate to see war, but I can't see where spending our hard earned tax dollars this way can accomplish anything. I have written to our Congressman and let our feelings be known. I hope you will reconsider or that enough of us will speak up and put a stop to this foolish spending of our tax dollars.

My parents live on Social Security that is \$525.00 a month. They pay \$200.00 a ~~month~~ month house payment. My mother is crippling from arthritis and is told she needs surgery on her knee. When she goes to seek financial help they tell her she has too much income. She can't get help and we want to send money to people who openly wish "Death to America"? This type of thing

is hard for me to understand.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. David C. Ross Jr.

7

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Main body of handwritten text in the lower half of the page, continuing the notes or list from the upper section.