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Collection Name WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

Withdrawer

DLB 4/27/2010

File Folder CO071 (IRAN) (583000-583999)

FOIA

S10-306

Box Number 93

SYSTEMATIC

534

ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
90164 LETTER	HELMUT KOHL TO REAGAN	3	3/15/1999	B1
90165 LETTER	COURTESY TRANSLATION OF #90164	2	ND	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 06, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ROBERT G. REED III

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN
SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE
IRANIAN JET LINER — OPPOSES COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROGER BOLTON	ORG	88/07/06		C 88/07/12 TR
NSPOWE REFERRAL NOTE:	A	88/07/14		C 88/07/21 TR
DOJ REFERRAL NOTE:	R	88/07/22		A 88/07/28 TR
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:M INDIVIDUAL CODES:

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

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

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

S/S# 8822441
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. Robert G. Reed, III
DATE: July 5, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation for victims of Iran Air 655

WH Referral Dated: July 25, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 583436

 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 29 A 5: 58

1 1001 1 1 1001

88 JUL 29 A 6: 46



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 28 1988

Mr. Robert G. Reed, III
Chairman of the Board
President and CEO
Pacific Resources, Inc.
733 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96842

Dear Mr. Reed:

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

8822441

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

REFERRAL

JULY 25, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 583436

MEDIA: MAILGRAM, DATED JULY 5, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. ROBERT G. REED III
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PRESIDENT AND CEO
PACIFIC RESOURCES, INC.
733 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU HI 96842

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN
SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE
IRANIAN JET LINER -- OPPOSES COMPENSATION
TO VICTIMS

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

PACIFIC RESOURCES INC
1709 K ST NW
WASHINGTON DC 20006 05AM

Western Union Mailgram®



1-0334168187 07/05/88 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WHSB
2022234623 MGMB TDBN WASHINGTON DC 214 07-05 0335P EST

583436

pro: Navy action w: Iran
airline
Roger Bolton
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

8822441

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

I WANT TO INFORM YOU OF MY UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR YOUR ACTIONS SURROUNDING THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE IRANIAN JET LINER, IRAN'S PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THEIR HISTORY, UNDER THE AYOTOLOAH, AS A WORLD TERRORIST STATE MAKES CAPTAIN ROGERS REACTION TO THE PERCEIVED THREAT COMPLETELY JUSTIFIABLE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REMEMBER THAT RESPONSIBILITY LIES WITH THE IRANIANS, NOT THE UNITED STATES. IRAN CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE UNFETTERED MILITARY ACTION AND THEN HIDE BEHIND OUTRAGEOUS CLAIMS OF INNOCENCE. THEY MUST ACCEPT THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR HOSTILE ATTACK AGAINST SHIPPING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. CONGRESSIONAL CRIES FOR REPARATIONS ARE LUDICROUS, TO MAKE PAYMENT TO THE VICTIM FAMILIES WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE GUILT FOR AN ACTION WHICH IS WITHOUT GUILT. IT SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENCE AND WOULD HAVE A DELATERIOUS AFFECT ON OUR MILITARY. COMBAT COMMANDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIVES OF THEIR MEN AND THE PROTECTION OF OUR COUNTRY'S NATIONAL INTEREST, WE MUST NOT BURDEN THE ALREADY DIFFICULT DECISION PROCESS WITH WORRIES OF GUILT FOR ACTION THEY DEEM MILITARILY APPROPRIATE, STAND FIRM, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU ARE EXACTLY RIGHT ON THIS ONE.

SINCERELY

ROBERT G. REED III
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PRESIDENT AND CEO
PACIFIC RESOURCES INC.
733 BISHOP ST
HONOLULU HI 96842

15:35 EST

MGMCOMP

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WESTERN UNION TELETYPE UNIT

WESTERN UNION TELETYPE UNIT

8853441

WESTERN UNION TELETYPE UNIT

I must have been down here...
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FROM TELETYPE UNIT

WESTERN UNION TELETYPE UNIT

88 JUL 14 P 4: 18

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 08, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. THOMAS COLLINS

SUBJECT: OPPOSES ANY FURTHER APOLOGIES OR RETRIBUTION
BEING MADE TO THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
FRANK DONATELLI		ORG	88/07/08		C 88/07/12
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
Joseph B. Ton Thoren PATHOR		A	88/07/14	TR	C 88/08/03
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

TR

COMMENTS: CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS

NO Response necessary

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:T INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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

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

8

F Donatelli

583481

4-016738S188 07/06/88

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

6013710172 POM TDBN JACKSON MS 158 07-06 180706Z P1:16

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD CONCERNING THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER, I ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN YOUR DEALING WITH THE SITUATION. THE U. S. NEEDS TO MAKE NO FURTHER APOLIGIES OR RETRIBUTION TO THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. I BELIEVE YOU HAVE ALREADY ADEQUATELY EXPRESSED OUR NATION'S REGRETS. THE COMMANDER OF OUR U. S. SHIPS WAS DOING HIS JOB AND DID IT EXTREMELY WELL. HE FOLLOWED EVERY RULE IN THE BOOK AND IT WAS THE IRANIAN JETLINER WHO FAILED TO FOLLOW THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE. AS A FORMER COMBAT

PILOT MYSELF, I KNOW THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN RULES WHICH ARE ALWAYS FOLLOWED. IN THIS CASE, THE PILOT OF THE AIRLINER REFUSED TO DO SO. MOST IMPORTANTLY, PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO THREATEN OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PEOPLE. I ASK THAT ANY ACTS OF TERRORISM OR VIOLENCE BE HANDLED WITH SWIFT RESPONSE.

YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THESE POINTS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

SINCERELY,

THOMAS COLLINS, / CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS
MISSISSIPPI #4
P O BOX 59
JACKSON MS 39205

3

22

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

00071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 08, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MATTHEW J. RINALDO

SUBJECT: URGES REJECTING ANY PROPOSAL TO MAKE
REPARATIONS TO FAMILIES OF INDIVIDUALS KILLED
IN THE RECENT AIR TRAGEDY, WITHOUT FIRST
HAVING SECURED THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICAN ~

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ALAN KRANOWITZ		ORG	88/07/08	AK	A 88/07/15
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: ~ HOSTAGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST
2 NAMES ILLEGIBLE

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 29 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230 1240
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

- ~ACTION CODES: ~DISPOSITION ~OUTGOING ~
- ~A-APPROPRIATE ACTION ~A-ANSWERED ~CORRESPONDENCE: ~
- ~C-COMMENT/RECOM ~B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL ~TYPE RESP=INITIALS ~
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- ~S-FOR-SIGNATURE ~
- ~X-INTERIM REPLY ~

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

July 15, 1988

Dear Matt:

Thank you for your July 6 letter to the President, cosigned by 31 of your colleagues, regarding the situation in the Persian Gulf.

We appreciated the opportunity to review your comments relative to compensation for the families of the victims who died in the Iranian airliner incident. As you are aware, Marlin Fitzwater issued an announcement, a copy of which I am enclosing, on Monday which explains what action has been taken in that regard.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

Alan M. Kranowitz
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Matthew J. Rinaldo
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ Enclosure

AMK/KRJ/efr (7AMKG)
Persian Gulf

MATTHEW J. RINALDO
7TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE
(RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND COMPETITIVENESS

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON AGING
(RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

503487
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2469 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5361

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1961 MORRIS AVENUE
UNION, NJ 07083
(201) 687-4235

290 ROUTE 22
GREEN BROOK, NJ 08812
(201) 981-9090

July 6, 1988

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

Dear Mr. President:

The terrible tragedy that has occurred in the Persian Gulf, in which a civilian Iranian airliner was accidentally shot down by U.S. forces engaged in defending themselves, underscores the need for securing a lasting peace in that area and the danger in that part of the world for civilians as well as military.

We applaud your initiative in promptly acknowledging this accident and expressing regret to the government of Iran. We are, however, concerned at recent reports that the Administration is considering making reparations to the families of individuals killed in this air disaster. While there may be justification for taking such a step, we believe it would be premature at this time, for a couple of reasons.

At the time of the incident, the U.S. ship was under attack from Iranian gunboats. It was actively engaged in combat from forces openly hostile to U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf.

Secondly, overall Iranian policy from the time of the taking of the hostages in 1979 has been one of calculated and methodical antagonism to the United States. To put it in perspective, while the United States promptly acknowledged this accident and expressed regret for it, when 241 Army, Navy and Marine troops were savagely murdered by terrorist forces in Beirut in 1983 there was no remotely similar reaction on the part of Iran. In fact, it was the government of Iran which imported and paid for the bomb that killed these soldiers.

We strongly oppose the payment of reparations while innocent Americans are being held hostage by forces allied with the Iranian government. Nor should we forget the murder of CIA agent Buckley by terrorists sympathetic with Iranian extremists.

The President
July 6, 1988
Page Two

Before one nickel is paid to Iran or these families, the Iranian government should effect the release of the nine American hostages now being held in Beirut. It would be a cynical conclusion to this event to have the United States pay thousands or even millions of taxpayers' dollars to Iran at a time it is overtly supporting terrorism against U.S. citizens around the world.

The issue of whether or not to pay reparations demands thorough and painstaking review, and we are making no recommendation as to that ultimate decision. We strongly urge you, however, to reject any proposal to make reparations without first having secured the release of the American hostages in the Middle East. It would be a shame to the Americans now being held and those who have died to do any less.

Sincerely yours,



MATTHEW J. RINALDO
Member of Congress

MJR/p

302 Stan Tarrist

326 Matt Peard X
MATTHEW J. RINALDO

299 M. G. Oxley X
MICHAEL G. OXLEY

88 Bob Davis X
BOB DAVIS

33 Steve Boehlert X
STEVE BOEHLERT

78 Lawrence Coughlin X
LAWRENCE COUGHLIN

195 Nancy L. Johnson X
NANCY L. JOHNSON

218 Delbert Watta X
DELBERT WATTA

310 Carl D. Purcell X
CARL D. PURSELL

365 Frank Deppert X

186 William J. Hughes X
WILLIAM J. HUGHES

243 Edward R. Madigan X
EDWARD R. MADIGAN

114 Mickey Edwards X
MICKEY EDWARDS

60 Rodney Chandler X
RODNEY CHANDLER

164 John Paul Hammer X
John Paul Hammer

62 Sam Cuppet X

Virginia Smith 374

Norman F. Lentz X 224

Don Ritter X 327

Howard Coble X 69
HOWARD COBLE

Jeff Barton X 19
JEFF BARTON

Guy V. Molinari X 273
GUY V. MOLINARI

Robert L. Livingston X 232
ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON

Thomas J. Tauke X 397
THOMAS J. TAUKE

Joe McDeade X 258
JOE MCDADE

Tom Bliley X 32
TOM BLILEY

Gene Taylor X 399
GENE TAYLOR

McCullum X 255
MCCULLUM

Percy Emerson X 115
PERCY EMERSON

Don Saxton X 390

H. James Saxton X 345
H. JAMES SAXTON

Jerry Solomon X 377
JERRY SOLOMON

5

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 08, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JAMES H. BILBRAY

SUBJECT: WRITES IN OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. PAYING
REPARATIONS TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS
IN THE DOWNING OF THE IRANIAN AIRLINER BY
THE USS VINCENNES

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ALAN KRANOWITZ		ORG	88/07/08	AK	88/07/13 TR
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230 _____
MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

- ~ACTION CODES: ~DISPOSITION ~OUTGOING ~
- ~A-APPROPRIATE ACTION ~A-ANSWERED ~CORRESPONDENCE: ~
- ~C-COMMENT/RECOM ~B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL ~TYPE RESP=INITIALS ~
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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

July 13, 1988

Dear Congressman:

Thank you for your July 7 letter to the President regarding the situation in the Persian Gulf.

We appreciated the opportunity to review your comments relative to compensation for the families of the victims who died in the Iranian airliner incident. As you are aware, Marlin Fitzwater issued an announcement, a copy of which I am enclosing, on Monday which explains what action has been taken in that regard.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

Alan M. Kranowitz
Assistant to the President

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure

AMK:KRJ:

JAMES H. BILBRAY
1ST DISTRICT, NEVADA

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON AGING



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 1988

583496
1431 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5965

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1701 W. CHARLESTON, SUITE 300
LAS VEGAS, NV 89102
(702) 477-7000

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

Dear Mr. President:

The downing of an Iranian airliner by the USS Vincennes is a human tragedy, and we deeply regret the loss of any innocent life.

We should not second guess the actions of our serviceman in a war torn area. The details of this tragedy are still unfolding and only a thorough review will reveal all the facts.

One thing is certain, Captain Will Rogers and the crew of the USS Vincennes acted to protect their ship.

There has been much speculation about the U.S. paying some reparations to the Iranian victims of this tragedy. The American people are compassionate and it is instinctive for us as a free society to want to make things as right as possible.

This, however is not the time to grant reparations. Under no circumstances should the U.S. provide reparations without assurances that the Iranian government will act as a responsible nation-state, rather than the international gangster we have come to know.

The American people have had to live with the reality of the terrorism that is generated from Iran. Iranian officials have built the world's largest state-run terror apparatus, one with the capacity to strike virtually anywhere. Terrorism remains an important element of Iran's foreign and defense policy.

It is this same Iranian regime which a short while ago launched an all out attack against our fleet in the Persian Gulf. It is the same Iranian regime which has mined commercial shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf. It is this same regime which supported the hijacking of a TWA flight in 1985 by a pro-Iranian Lebanese

Hon. Ronald Reagan
July 7, 1988
Page 2

Shiite militia group. The hijackers wielded two hand grenades and a pistol in seizing the TWA aircraft and shot U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem in the head while holding him in the plane's doorway. They dumped him on the tarmac where he subsequently died.

It is this same Iranian regime which assisted in the destruction of the Marine Barracks in Beirut.

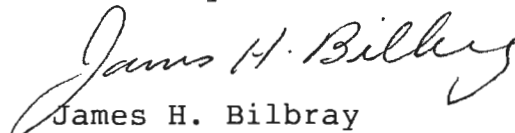
In each and every case the U.S. has been victims of this regime and in each case the Iranians never discussed reparations to American victims.

And in spite of the highest U.S. officials publicly considering granting reparations, we witness Iranian government officials openly speculating about what kind of terrorist response they will launch against the U.S. or our allies. There is also concern that Iran might encourage its allies in Lebanon to execute some of their nine American hostages, who include Marine Lieutenant Colonel Richard Higgins.

Mr. President, before you consider any reparation, the United States should demand that:

- a. all American hostages be released by the Iranian Shiite Moslem groups.
- b. the Iranian government grant reparations to the American families of the victims of the Beirut Marine Barracks disaster.
- c. the Iranian government turn over to American legal authorities those responsible for terrorist acts for prosecution.

Sincerely,


James H. Bilbray
Member of Congress

JHB:mt

4

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 071

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 12, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. ROBERT N. CLEAVES

SUBJECT: OPPOSES ANY REPARATIONS FOR FAMILIES OF
IRANIANS AND OTHERS KILLED ON IRANIAN
AIRLINER

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JEANINE CHASE		ORG	88/07/12		C 88/07/25
<i>Shake</i>	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	R	88/07/15	TR	A 88/07/27
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: BOB, P-3
LTR ALSO ADDRESSED TO SENATORS CRANSTON AND
WILSON

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

MI 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.

S/S# 8821774
DATE July 22, 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: Dr. Robert N. Cleaves
DATE: July 5, 1988
SUBJECT: Opposes U.S. compensation for victims of Iran Air 655

WH Referral Dated: July 15, 1988
NSC ID# (if any): 583552

 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 22

Dr. Robert N. Cleaves
1224 Roberto Lane
Los Angeles, California 90077

Dear Dr. Cleaves:

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. Our offer is voluntary and not a matter of legal obligation.

We deeply regret the tragic loss of life in the recent downing of Iran Air 655 by a U.S. vessel, and have conveyed our 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 arrangements for direct payment to the families are currently under study.

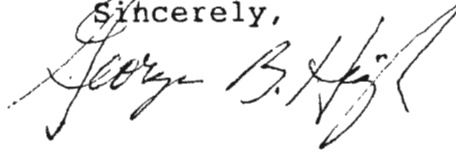
No compensation will be paid to the Government of Iran for the loss of the aircraft itself, which was owned and operated by the Iranian Government. We have not made payment of compensation to the families contingent on changes of behavior by the Iranian Government because this would suggest that we are 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George B. High". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

George B. High
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

8821774

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

REFERRAL

JULY 15, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 583552

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 5, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: DR. ROBERT N. CLEAVES
1224 ROBERTO LANE
LOS ANGELES CA 90077

SUBJECT: OPPOSES ANY REPARATIONS FOR FAMILIES OF
IRANIANS AND OTHERS KILLED ON IRANIAN
AIRLINER

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

588932

8821774

LAW OFFICES
ROBERT N. CLEAVES
1224 ROBERTO LANE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90077
(213) 476-7527

July 5, 1988

J. Chase

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D.C.

SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

SENATOR PETE WILSON
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

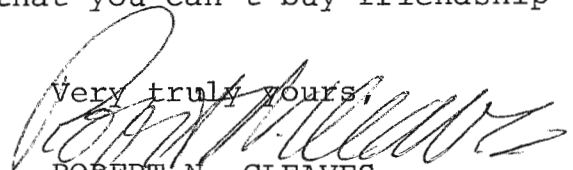
Re: "REPARATIONS" FOR FAMILIES OF IRANIANS
AND OTHERS KILLED ON IRANIAN AIRLINER

Gentlemen:

NO REPARATIONS!!!!

It was not the US that created the scene that resulted in the downing of the Iranian airliner, it was the Iranians. Iranian Air Traffic Control should not have permitted any civilian aircraft to depart from Iran in the direction of an existing and then occurring naval battle regardless of who started it (in this instance the Iranians). And this is but one reason why the US should not even consider paying reparations. The skipper of the US cruiser was 100% correct in his actions...and he acted on our behalf...had he not, we might have been faced with another Stark disaster.

Mr. Robert C. McFarland has stated that we should pay reparations because it is "established policy" (wrong!), and in order to assuage Iran (to deter retaliation), and some of our middle eastern "friends." McFarland was wrong when he dealt with the Iranians before, and he is wrong now. When will people in high office in the US learn that you can't and shouldn't deal with nuts. Iran is a terrorist nation, they are fanatics, and we should not pay out taxpayer money for unfortunate deaths that resulted from the conduct of Iran's civil and military goofs. Our middle eastern "friends" wont think any more of us if we pay, and they would, given their culture, think we are stupid for doing so. When will we learn that you can't buy friendship anyway.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT N. CLEAVES

RNC

6

583813
0071
FG002-38
FO

W/S

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF IRAN

1. THE CARTER FAMILY:

"I don't believe that this altercation between Iran and Iraq will have any predictable effect on the lives or safety of the hostages. It could cut both ways. It could convince Iran that they need peace with their neighbors, they need to be part of the international community, they need to be able to have a strong and viable economy, they need to get spare parts for their military weapons, and so forth, and therefore induce them to release the hostages. I'm not predicting that, but it's a possibility."

--- Jimmy Carter
press conference, 9/22/80
(emphasis added)

"...anyone who looks at the Persian Gulf and Iran realizes that that is perhaps the most strategic and touchy area in the world."

--- Walter Mondale
"Issues and Answers," 1/18/81

"The strategic importance to our country, I think to the entire world, of a good relationship with a strong and independent Iran is crucial."

--- Jimmy Carter
press conference, 10/10/78

"The biggest threat to our security would be if the Soviets should be tempted to move into Iran or to move into an area where they can control the Persian Gulf itself or access to it."

--- Jimmy Carter
Interview, 10/6/80

The importance of Iran to Western strategy is an undisputed fact.... An Iran dependent on or dominated by its next-door neighbor, the Soviet Union, would be a catastrophe for the West.

--- Pierre Salinger
America Held Hostage, 1981
p. 5

"We, I think, should all recognize that Iran, located where it is, is of strategic importance to our own security interests as well as the interests of the Western World and all countries depending upon the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf region. It is on the periphery of the Soviet Union and the significance of Iran's location is something that we have to take into consideration in terms of our future relationship."

--- Edmund Muskie
"Issues and Answers," 1/25/80

"Every interest of the U.S. is served by [cessation of Iran-Iraq war]. Our interest in stability in the area, our interest in keeping the oil flowing, our interest in the safe return of the hostages."

--- Warren Christopher
"Face the Nation," 9/28/80

It was obvious too that the Soviets had a vested interest in preventing a settlement [to the hostage crisis].

--- Jody Powell
The Other Side of the Story
1984, p. 271

"[The Soviets] must know that if part of their plan is to move toward the Persian Gulf that means war."

--- Clark Clifford
Facts on File, 2/8/80

"It is important for our country to be united. The appearance of disunity is exactly what the Iranians and the Soviets want."

--- Rosalynn Carter
Facts on File, 2/8/80

2. EDITORIAL OPINION:

...the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the threat it implies of Russian intervention in neighboring Pakistan and Iran, has put a new face on the strategic situation in that part of the world.

--- Charlotte News and Courier
editorial, 1/15/80

With its warm-water access to the Indian Ocean and its oil riches, Iran long has been coveted by the Soviets -- as it was coveted by their Czarist predecessors.... Here in the United States, virtue-mongers who reviled the Shah will do well to contemplate the prospect of "human rights" in an Iran ruled directly by fundamentalist theocrats -- and indirectly by the Soviet Union.

--- Richmond Times-Dispatch
editorial, 1/9/79

The Shah perceived the reality of the Soviet threat, and he resisted Soviet aggression. In so doing he promoted American policy and interests.

--- Richmond News Leader
editorial, 11/14/79

3. THE FOREIGN POLICY ESTABLISHMENT:

REAGAN MUST DO MORE TO GET THE HOSTAGES OUT

Peggy Say, sister of Terry A. Anderson, 37, an Associated Press correspondent kidnapped in March 1985, said on the "CBS Morning News" that she does not believe Reagan considered the hostages' plight before ordering the raid [on Libya]. "It was an act almost designed to put them blatantly in danger," she said.

--- Washington Post, 4/19/86

"We can't find these captors and talk to them, but we can make sure that our government and the captors know that we will not give up."

--- Jean Sutherland, wife of hostage
Tom Sutherland
Washington Post, 6/10/86

Given the right type of pressure, Reagan will do whatever is necessary to set Americans free. But without such pressure, almost always in the form of the publicity surrounding the hijacking last year of TWA Flight 847 or the arrest of journalist Nicholas S. Daniloff, there is no dealing.

--- Former Sen. James G. Abourezk (D-S.D.)
Los Angeles Times, 10/1/86

...it would be a severe blow to the confidence of Americans abroad if they did not trust that their government would relentless pursue their freedom through all honorable means. A resolve not to "compromise with terrorists" must at least be matched with relentless dedication to secure their captives' release.

--- Christian Science Monitor
editorial, 7/29/86

IRANIAN MODERATES

The revival of Islamic spirit has been a rallying point for millions of people, particularly in Iran, where it united widely divergent political groups.... Those groups really are divergent.

--- Boston Globe
editorial, 1/12/79

"We have to address the moderates who support the terrorists.... We need to use moral authority to bring [the moderates] to our side."

--- Moorhead Kennedy, former Iranian
hostage
Christian Science Monitor, 5/19/86

5

~~SECRET~~
NSC/S PROFILE

NSC
RECORD ID: 8802085
RECEIVED: 16 MAR 88 19

TO: STEVENS

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)
06 4/28/10

FROM: MEELHANEY, S

DOC DATE: 16 MAR 88
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: GERMANY F R

HS

1/MS

PERSONS: KOHL, HELMUT

C. F.
583853
3100
00071
00072
00054-02
FG006-12

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM CHANCELLOR KOHL RE SITUATION IN IRAN & IRAK

ACTION: PENDING STATE RECOMS DUE DATE: 19 MAR 88 STATUS: D

STAFF OFFICER: STATE LOGREF:

FILES: PA NSCIF: CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

ERMARTH
KELLY, B
LEDSKY
PERINA
RODMAN

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSCDM CLOSED BY: DOC 1 OF 1

~~SECRET~~



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 16, 1988

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 German Chancellor Helmut Kohl which is transmitted for your information.

This correspondence was received in the Information Management Section of the Executive Secretariat, on March 16, 1988. A copy has been assigned to the appropriate bureau for action.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "S. McElhenny".

Director, S/S-I
Information Management Section
Executive Secretariat
647-3836

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Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name

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Withdrawer

DLB 4/27/2010

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FOIA

S10-306
SYSTEMATIC

Box Number

93

534

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i> <i>Document Description</i>	<i>No of</i> <i>pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i> <i>tions</i>
90164	LETTER HELMUT KOHL TO REAGAN	3	3/15/1999	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing
Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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Collection Name

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

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90165	LETTER COURTESY TRANSLATION OF #90164	2	ND	B1

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- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 STATE
001

UNCLASSIFIED (ON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURES)
dbj/rd/10

Z 88031619 PENDING STATE RECOMS
X 88061612 OBE PER NSC/S

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S) 4/26/10

~~SECRET~~
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8802085
RECEIVED: 16 MAR 88 19

TO: STEVENS
PRESIDENT

FROM: MEELHANEY, S
KOHL, HELMUT

DOC DATE: 16 MAR 88
SOURCE REF: 8808037

KEYWORDS: GERMANY F R

HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM CHANCELLOR KOHL RE SITUATION IN IRAN & IRAQ

ACTION: OBE PER NSC/S	DUE DATE: 19 MAR 88	STATUS: C
STAFF OFFICER: STATE	LOGREF:	
FILES: PA	NSCIF:	CODES:

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

<u>FOR ACTION</u>	<u>FOR CONCURRENCE</u>	<u>FOR INFO</u>
		ERMARTH
		KELLY, B
		LEDSKY
		PERIN
		RODMAN

COMMENTS: *** ADD TO FILE ***

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSCDM CLOSED BY: NSW DOC 1 OF 1

~~SECRET~~