

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
1998-0099-F; 2005-0336-F

FOIA Number:
2005-0336-F

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential
Library Staff.**

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Science and Technology Policy, Office of (OSTP)
Series: Bromley, D. Allan, Files
Subseries: International Files - Country Files

OA/ID Number: 62065
Folder ID Number: 62065-014

Folder Title:
International - Iraq [1991]

Stack:

Row:

Section:

Shelf:

Position:

0

0

0

0

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 5, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: D. ALLAN BROMLEY *D. Na*
SUBJECT: FOOD FOR IRAQI CHILDREN

My Associate Director for Life Sciences--D.A. Henderson--has sent me the enclosed memo on the above mentioned topic.

With whom in NSC should we make contact to discuss this matter further? We are prepared to be helpful where such help might be useful but do not want to meddle if someone is already taking care of the situation.

Would welcome your comments and/or advice.

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 1, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR ALLAN BROMLEY

FROM:

D.A. HENDERSON

SUBJECT:

FOOD FOR CHILDREN -- IRAQ

Regarding the issue of food for Iraq, I talked with Dr. Carl Taylor, a long-time friend and now special consultant to Mr. Jim Grant, Director of UNICEF. He is meeting daily with the senior UNICEF staff.

Bottom line: Taylor presents a persuasive case for utilization of Iraq's funds in some manner to provide for food and medicine appropriate for children under 5 years. He informs me that the Sanctions Committee has this under advisement and is awaiting a lead from the U.S.

Problem: Two groups have recently travelled throughout Iraq to obtain, to the extent possible, an independent assessment of the problem. The Harvard Study Group, just returned, will soon present their findings to the U.N. Sanctions Committee. They project 170,000 deaths in children under 5 years over the next 12 months absent intervention (this is 2 to 3 times the normal level). Malnutrition was prevalent in early spring, has abated with the harvest and is expected to reappear and become much more severe in September. The Kurds and Shiites are most affected as are those in more rural areas (this surprises me and surprises UNICEF as well). In the Shiite areas, "Mozambique-like" levels of malnutrition were seen in late spring.

An Arab-American Physicians Group headed by Dr. Al Hani (said to be a good friend of Governor Sununu) basically confirmed these observations during a trip in late May.

Solution: There is a need for early action given anticipated malnutrition problems in September, the inevitable lag time to set activities in motion and need now for vaccines/drugs.

UNICEF has the lead role in the U.N. for food/drug assistance for children and has 61 staff in place in Iraq, a distribution network, and confidence that they can monitor distribution. UNICEF estimates a need for \$500 million over a 6 month period to provide foodstuffs and drugs for children under 5 years. (This works out to about \$200-250 per child, a figure which seems somewhat high to me.) Both the drugs and food proposed to be provided would be most suitable for young children and unlikely to be substantially diverted to adults.

Actions: Jim Grant met two weeks ago with a group of principal ambassadors, convened by the Sanctions Committee, to present his proposals. No action has been taken. They are said to be awaiting a signal from the U.S.

The Arab American Physicians arranged for a joint resolution to be introduced into Congress a week ago whose substance relates to the provision of food/medicines for young children utilizing frozen Iraqi funds or revenues from sale of Iraqi oil.

There is an apparent general consensus that Iraqi funds should be utilized in some manner for this purpose and not donor-type funds, given the great needs in other parts of the world.

Rationale for Response: Were foods and medicine to be made available using Iraqi's resources, Saddam Hussein could, of course, forbid shipment but at enormous political cost internationally. Moreover, publicity would inevitably mount forcing some sort of response. An early decision would permit UNICEF to do necessary planning and development work for food distribution network and could facilitate the early distribution of drugs.