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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Grant, Mary Kate, Files  
**Subseries:** Subject File, 1988-1991

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**OA/ID Number:** 13879  
**Folder ID Number:** 13879-009

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**Folder Title:**  
President of Djibouti Visit, 4/24/91

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

4PM ;

2026470810

2024566218:# 1

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MK: Attached are  
① cable msg. of thanks  
from Cheney to  
Djibouti ;

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS  
AF/RA, AF/EPS

O V E R S H E E T

② proposed remarks from  
state. Mum's the word  
because its a bootleg +  
it's classified for  
limited use.

Page 1 of 2

(Speechwriting)

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX #: 456-6218

PHONE #: 677-5624

FAX #: 647-0810

SUBJECT: The Pentagon's congratulatory message,  
as we discussed.

*Sub Thomas*

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520



BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS  
AF/E, AF/RA, AF/EPS

F A X C O V E R S H E E T

DATE: April 15, 1991

Page 1 of 2

TO: Carolyn Cawley

OFFICE: White House (Speechwriting)

PHONE #: 456-7750 FAX #: 456-6218

FROM: Herb Thomas

OFFICE: AF/E

PHONE #: 647-5684 FAX #: 647-0810

SUBJECT: The Pentagon's congratulatory message,  
as we discussed.

Herb Thomas

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## (George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Memo	Herb Thomas to Karen Cawley, re: Cable to Djibouti about Desert Storm. [Document not located.] (3 pp.)	04/15/91	P-1, (b)(1)	

**Collection:**

**Record Group:** Bush Presidential Records  
**Office:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Grant, Mary Kate  
**Subseries:** Subject File  
**WHORM Cat.:**  
**File Location:** President of Djibouti Visit 4/24/91

<b>Date Closed:</b> 12/20/2004	<b>OA/ID Number:</b> 04424
<b>FOIA/SYS Case #:</b>	
<b>Re-review Case #:</b> 2005-0482-S	
<b>P-2/P-5 Review Case #:</b>	
<b>MR Case #:</b>	<b>Appeal Case #:</b>
<b>MR Disposition:</b>	<b>Appeal Disposition:</b>
<b>Disposition Date:</b>	<b>Disposition Date:</b>

### RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]  
P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]  
P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]  
P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]  
P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]  
P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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

**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]  
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(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

April 15, 1991

MEMORANDUM

TO: MARY KATE GRANT  
FROM: CAROLYN CAWLEY  
RE: SHAKE DJIBOUTI

---

-- Country Information/Pronunciations/ETC.

- o The Republic of Djibouti  
Djibouti = ji-BOOT-ee  
the people = ji-BOO-tians  
  
Religion: 94% Muslim  
Language: French  
Nearly half the population are nomadic pastoralists

- o President Hassan Gouled = HOSS-on GOO-ledd  
Referred to as "His Excellency, the President"

"As President since Djibouti gained independence from France in 1977, Hassan Gouled has played a leading role in shaping the government. He has attacked economic and ethnic problems by seeking foreign investment and balancing clan rivalries. These measures have preserved stability despite political and military turmoil in neighboring Ethiopia and Somalia that threatens to spill over. Pursuing a policy of positive neutrality, he has maintained Djibouti's integrity as an independent state, and he has expressed a strong interest in contributing to the peaceful resolution of regional problems."

-- State Dept. country summary

Djibouti became independent on June 27, 1977 and Gouled became the first President.

-- Purpose of this event

An opportunity to thank the President and his people for their support in the Gulf crisis. That is all -- because Djibouti is basically a nothing country whose only value lies in its strategic location on the Horn of Africa -- bottom line: we are thankful that they have been friendly to the U.S. with the real estate.

The gist of it is:

If most "nations" on the African continent have convoluted origins and shaky borders, Djibouti really takes the cake. It was essentially created by France and achieved independence only as recently as 1977 -- unfortunately for any soaring rhetoric, we do not share along and illustrious history of friendly relations!

The country is sandwiched between Somalia and Ethiopia -- both are consistently trying to devour Djibouti. Talk about hostile neighbors!

## BASIC SPEECH CONTENT

### Comments from NSC & State

1) Refer to D. as a "vessel of tranquility" in a tumultuous and chaotic sea. (UGH! -- but you get the idea.) Don't go overboard on this; sensitivities obviously exist with the U.S. and their neighbors -- but do mention their steadfastness in the region. They are very interested in seeing the New World Order work. Djibouti maintains membership in several international organizations, including the UN, the World Health Organization, the Organization, of African Unity, and the Arab League.

#### As for their external relations:

-- D. played an important role in creating, in 1985, the six nation Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development. The first meeting in 1986 brought both Ethiopian and Somali heads of state, marking a significant step in settlement of regional disputes.

-- D. embarked on a policy of "diplomatic diversification" in 1989, applying for membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

#### 2) Djibouti supported us in the Gulf.

The background is that D. has always been friendly with Iraq and received military aid. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, Hassan Gouled ("a wormy rug merchant") looked at the equation and decided George Bush was definitely going to win this one and he'd better jump on board.

Again, the Djiboutians were friendly to the U.S./allies with their real estate. We were looking for bases from which to monitor the allied blockade -- they allowed us to use airfields for P-3 surveillance. Djibouti Town (the capital) has been a free port for several years now -- and they allowed us to use it to refuel and resupply naval vessels. (( Since late 1979 , with increased US naval presence in the Indian Ocean, access has become even more vital. Before the Gulf crisis, they allowed us to use the port during the 1987-88 tanker reflagging operation in the Persian Gulf. ))

Some would say that Djibouti, having been a colony, knew what it's like to live under foreign domination, and for this reason supported the coalition in liberating Kuwait.

Djibouti is the most stable country on the Horn and is relatively democratic -- but they are definitely not the paragon of freedom. Mention their stability but don't overdo it. They didn't necessarily support us in the Gulf because they are great lovers of democracy and freedom -- ie: they didn't do it because they share our moral argument.

#### AMERICAN - DJIBOUTIAN RELATIONS

Djibouti achieved independence in 1977 -- the US did not maintain diplomatic presence prior -- however, a consulate general was established in 1977 shortly before independence became official. When that happened, an embassy with a charge de affaires was set up. It was not until 1980 that we sent an ambassador.

The US has provided food and monetary aid to relieve the burden of refugees from Ethiopia and Somalia.

Relations have always been friendly, though thoroughly uneventful.

EXCERPTS FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ARTICLE, 1978

"The temperature soars above 100 degrees, and mugginess steams the senses. yet nothing saps the energy of the crowd. Grinning men brandish spears, seas of children wave banners and balloons, bejeweled women flash curved daggers. June 27, 1977 brings independence to the French Territory of the Afars and the Issas, and the Republic of Djibouti is born. Its flags bears a symbol that adorns celebrators' caps -- "the star we shall follow in our hope and struggle," declares President Hassan Gouled Aptidon."

"Born in the desert, President Hassan Gouled, an Issa, says, "We are a nation of shepherds, and proud of it. Unity of the people is integral to the solution of our problems. We have prepared many regional projects, but we need help."

BOB FRASURE

**COPY FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT  
AT THE DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT GOULED  
APRIL 24, 1991

There come times when nations are forced to decide whether to confront aggression. These are not easy decisions for any country, large or small. Today, I am pleased to thank one country which took up this challenge following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait--the Republic of Djibouti.

Small in size, lacking resources and vulnerable to retaliation, Djibouti nevertheless took a principled position, seeing the invasion as an intolerable precedent for the security of small countries. Djibouti joined in the condemnation of aggression voted by a number of international organizations, beginning with the Arab League, and supported the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. Djibouti joined forces with us and opened its airfields, its seaport, and its territorial waters to enable Coalition forces to fight for the liberation of Kuwait. I welcome the opportunity today to thank President Gouled personally for this support.

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- 2 -

Djibouti's response to the Gulf crisis, however, came as no surprise to us. Djibouti has long been a model of stability and moderation in a region which unfortunately is no stranger to violence and extremism. Djibouti's commitment to peace has led it to establish institutions for greater cooperation in the Horn of Africa which have succeeded in resolving differences between some of its neighbors. These acts demonstrate that our two countries share some important values, including a deep and abiding desire for peace.

We are glad to have had the opportunity to express our feelings directly to President Gouled. Other discussions are scheduled with the Presidential party, concerning joint activities in various fields and we look forward to many more years of cooperation.

I would like to close by expressing once again, this time as a former Navy man, our appreciation for the welcome and support which has always been extended to the United States Navy in the Republic of Djibouti.

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Herb: 647-8852  
Frasure:

Grant/Cawley  
April 16, 1991  
3 p.m. Draft one  
A:GOULED

**DEPARTURE STATEMENT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT GOULED  
REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1991  
TIME?**

There come times when nations must decide whether to allow aggression to stand unchallenged. The decision is never easy for any country, large or small. Today, I want to thank one small nation which took up a very large challenge in the Persian Gulf War -- the Republic of Djibouti.

Tiny in size, lacking in resources, and vulnerable to retaliation, Djibouti saw Saddam Hussein's aggression as an intolerable precedent for small nations everywhere. And so Djibouti joined the chorus of condemnation, voting with the Arab League and the United Nations. It joined the coalition of forces against Saddam Hussein. By opening its airfields, seaports and territorial waters to the allies, Djibouti enabled allied forces to liberate Kuwait quickly and efficiently. President Gouled, your personal support was invaluable.

Djibouti's response to the Gulf crisis, however, came as no surprise to us. Djibouti has long been a model of stability and moderation in a region which is no stranger to violence and extremism. This deep and abiding desire for peace is <sup>a chief characteristic of</sup> ~~what I mean~~ <sup>what I call</sup> by "the new world order" -- it is the responsibility imposed by our successes. It refers to new ways of working with nations

like yours to deter aggression -- and to achieve stability, to achieve prosperity, and above all, to achieve peace.

Together, we look forward to the day when the nations of the world, large and small, cooperate peacefully to settle disputes and deter aggression. We are glad to have the opportunity to express our hopes directly to President Gouled, and we anticipate many long years ahead in our relationship.

As an old Navy man, I want to thank you again, your Excellency, for the warm welcome which Djibouti has always extended to our Navy. Your support for United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen was essential to the coalition's success. We thank you.

# # #