

United States Department of State

Assistant Secretary of State for
Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520-6242

Richards
7/21

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

FROM: John H. Kelly

SUBJECT: Meeting with Iraqi Ambassador al-Mashat,
August 6, 1989

At 3:15 p.m. on August 6, Assistant Secretary Kelly convoked Iraqi Ambassador Mashat. Mashat began the conversation by asking if the U.S. Government had a report of the meeting between the American CDA in Baghdad and President Saddam Hussein. Kelly said that we had a report.

Kelly then raised the information in Kuwait 4476. He told Mashat that we had a report that today in Kuwait, 28 American citizens and a number of other Westerners had been placed aboard 9 air conditioned buses and taken away from their hotels. The buses were provided with substantial water and other liquids, indicating that they were going on a long trip.

Kelly said that the Secretary had instructed him to call in Mashat to find out what was happening to our citizens. We remain very concerned about their security and safety.

Mashat answered by referring to the 11 missing American citizens who had been brought to Baghdad and turned over to the Embassy. Kelly clarified that this was a new group which had been taken from hotels in Kuwait today.

Mashat said that this was going to have to be a matter that would have to be taken up with the new government of Kuwait and that he would inform his government and ask them to make inquiries.

Kelly said that we wanted to know where our people are and that we wanted them to be released to us. Kelly added that the easiest way to handle these situations would be to allow all Americans and foreigners to leave Kuwait and Iraq.

Mashat said that this had been covered by President Saddam Hussein in the meeting with the American Charge. Mashat added that no foreigners are allowed to leave Iraq.

Kelly said that Americans and foreigners should be allowed to leave. Mashat, raising the tone of his voice, asked rhetorically, "why, when you (the USG) are making military preparations to attack Iraq?"

Kelly raised his voice and said that it is Iraq which last week invaded an innocent country.

Mashat arose from his seat and said he would not listen to this and would leave.

Mashat said the US is preparing together with Saudi Arabia for war.

Kelly told Mashat to get out. Mashat shouted an accusation and Kelly followed him to the outer door of the office shouting at him, "get out, you thief."

As he walked to the door, Mashat was shouting at Kelly that "you invaded Panama."