

Mandatory stand-up talk

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2003

Mail content alert!

Poorly wrapped packages containing rice and oats addressed to President Bush at the White House are reportedly coming apart and falling into mail processing equipment, causing some damage and raising fear among employees. Incidents have been reported in Eugene, OR, and Spokane, WA.

The mailings are part of a campaign initiated by the "Rice for Peace" organization in protest to the pending war with Iraq. The organization is urging its supporters to put rice or oats and a letter of protest into envelopes addressed to the president.

There is no indication that these mailings contain harmful agents of any kind. And, of the eight envelopes discovered thus far, none have contained threats of any kind.

The file attached to this message contains a mock-up of the mail piece that is being recommended by the organization. However, some of the mailings are not following this recommendation and rice is being put into a machinable #10 envelope and may not bear a return address or other markings.

The envelopes are reportedly bulky, may contain two or more stamps, have a gritty feel and may or may not be completely sealed. A printed copy of this image should be accessible to employees.

Employees are advised to exercise the usual precautions in handling mail. As normal procedure, acceptance personnel should advise customers of proper USPS packaging requirements. Where these requirements are not met, these packages can be refused.