

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0001-07

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 29, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE VEN. MICHAEL R. MURPHY

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS
TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
KATHY JEAVONS		ORG	91/05/29		C 91/05/30 TC
99 DOS	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	91/05/29		91/07/05 TC
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500

PL 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.

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9110016

Date July 8, 1991

FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush
From: The Ven. Michael R. Murphy
Date: May 24, 1991
Subj: Support for the administration's efforts to achieve
peace in the Middle East

WH Referral Dated: June 4, 1991
NSCS ID# (if any): 241776

 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.
 X X An 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:

for Sandra Saulis
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 5, 1991

The Venerable Michael R. Murphy
The Diocese of Southern Virginia
244 South Sycamore Street
Petersburg, VA 23803

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I have been asked to respond to your letter to President Bush of May 24 regarding the the need to move towards peace in the Middle East and the problem of settlements in the occupied territories. Your thoughtful comments are most appreciated.

The United States has clearly and consistently opposed a number of Israeli practices in the occupied territories. We have been especially concerned about the employment by Israeli security forces of excessive or lethal force against Palestinians, and have urged Israeli authorities to ensure strict adherence to rules of engagement which permit use of firearms only in life-threatening situations. We have encouraged the Israelis to fully investigate cases in which Palestinian deaths are caused by IDF soldiers, and to punish those found guilty of wrongdoing.

We have also deplored other Israeli practices such as administrative detention of Palestinians, the demolition of homes, and deportations. We have made our position very clear to the Israeli government on these issues. In particular, we have strongly urged that Israel immediately cease the practice of deportation.

At the same time, we are also concerned about violence by Palestinians directed at Israeli civilians and security personnel, particularly the unprovoked stabbings of Israeli civilians that have been occurring since the end of 1990, and the rise in violence committed by Palestinians against other Palestinians in the occupied territories. We have consistently stressed that such violence will not achieve Palestinian rights.

Nor can we ignore the very real threats to Israel's security that still exist in the region. Israel has a right to exist in peace and security, and with the recognition of its neighbors. The U.S. is strongly committed to the security of Israel and to the search for peace--two objectives which we believe go hand in hand. Our economic and security assistance to Israel has been central to our policy towards Israel and reflects historic and cultural ties. It also supports our broad regional interests by helping to build a strong and secure Israel which can move forward in a peace process, and is thus vital to the stability of the region and the advancement of the peace process.

President Bush has said it is time to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We continue to believe the best way to achieve a comprehensive settlement is through a negotiating process among the parties. The President has stated that a comprehensive peace must be grounded in United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The principle of territory for peace must be elaborated to provide for Israel's security and recognition, and at the same time for legitimate Palestinian political rights.

Please be assured that as we work to further the peace process, we will continue to monitor and address the human rights situation in the territories carefully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W R Brew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William R. Brew
Director
Office of Israel and
Arab-Israeli Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

9110016

'91 JUN-04 10:16 AM

JUNE 4, 1991

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 241776

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 24, 1991

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: THE VEN. MICHAEL R. MURPHY
ARCHDEACON AND DIRECTOR OF
MINISTRIES FOR MISSION
THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA
244 SOUTH SYCAMORE STREET
PETERSBURG VA 23803

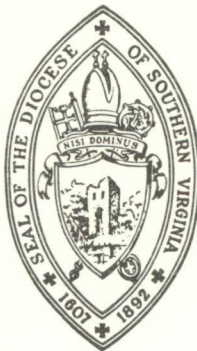
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS
TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

241.776



The Ven. Michael R. Murphy
Archdeacon and
Director of Ministries for Mission

The Diocese of Southern Virginia

Petersburg Office:
244 South Sycamore Street
Petersburg, Virginia 23803
(804) 733-5280

May 24, 1991

K. Jeavons

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

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to commend the present administration and congress for current steps being made in pursuit of peace and justice in the Middle East, and especially in Israel and the West Bank. Secretary Baker has been doing an outstanding job to try to achieve justice for all who are in that area. It seems that we have quite a window of opportunity at this time to effect a real peace in the area.

One very powerful incentive we have at our disposal would be to limit financial aid to Israel until full civil and human rights are granted to the one and one half million Palestinians who reside in Israel and the West Bank, as well as Gaza and the Golan Heights, and until Israel agrees to abide by the United Nations Resolution No. 242 which calls for withdrawal from the occupied territories.

I'm also very concerned about increased and continued Jewish settlement in the West Bank. It seems to me that property rights need to be restored to those who have had their homes and lands confiscated, and that discrimination, persecution and oppression by the government must be stopped. People who have lived in an area for generations need to have their rights respected, and I urge you to do everything in your power to help this happen.

Very respectfully yours,

Michael R. Murphy
Michael R. Murphy

MRM:ppw