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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 271091

C0001-07

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 18, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MOST REVEREND EDMOND L. BROWNING

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO
GENERATE A PEACE CONFERENCE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
LEIGH ANN METZGER		ORG	91/09/18	LM A	
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*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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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1991

Dear Reverend Browning:

On behalf of President Bush, thank you for letter of support about U.S. policy toward Israel and the Middle East. Since the end of the war in the Persian Gulf, the United States has worked hard to take advantage of the potentially historic opportunity to move the Arab/Israeli peace process forward. In recent months, the Administration has achieved a great deal -- fashioning a process that, for the first time, would launch direct negotiations among Israel, Palestinians, and all of Israel's Arab neighbors.

The Administration is currently involved in extremely sensitive negotiations to pin down the final details that are related to convening a peace conference. What must be avoided is anything that would distract the parties from the hard choices and decisions that they have yet to make to get to the negotiating table.

Delay is being urged by the President for the best of all reasons: peace. It is the President's judgement that if Congress addresses absorption assistance now, a contentious debate will result -- one that could have the effect of losing the participation of either the Arab or the Israeli negotiating partners. If this were to occur, the best chance to promote Arab/Israeli peace since the Camp David Accords will be lost, with uncertain and potentially dangerous consequences in the region. Postponement will also afford both the Administration and Congress an opportunity to study Israel's needs in greater detail and to craft a program that has the greatest likelihood of promoting successful absorption at minimal taxpayer cost, while at the same time contributing to prospects for peace.

President Bush has made it clear that the request for a delay in no way calls into question the need for a strong and secure Israel. As the President has said, "For more than 40 years, the United States has been Israel's closest friend in the world, and this remains the case and will as long as I am President of the United States."

Your views were brought to the attention of the President's National Security Council and other officials. Please know how much the President appreciates your continued input on this and other foreign and domestic issues.

Sincerely,



Leigh Ann Metzger
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

The Most Reverend Edmond L. Browning
Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church (USA)
The Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

LOAN Guarantees

Approved 9/26/91
SN

Dear

On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your ~~message~~ *letter of support* about U.S. policy toward Israel and the Middle East. Since the end of the war in the Persian Gulf, the United States has worked hard to take advantage of the potentially historic opportunity to move the Arab/Israeli peace process forward. In recent months, the Administration has achieved a great deal -- fashioning a process that, for the first time, would launch direct negotiations among Israel, Palestinians, and all of Israel's Arab neighbors.

This effort did not take place in a vacuum. Over the past two years, Israel has opened its doors to more than 300,000 Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants. The steady influx of men, women, and children from around the world over past decades has been central to Israel's success. The United States has long supported immigration to Israel, and President Bush has been pleased to play a role in this enterprise. It is no exaggeration to state that many of the Soviet and Ethiopian Jews now in Israel would not be free and safe were it not for years of sustained U.S. effort.

The Administration is currently involved in extremely sensitive negotiations to pin down the final details that are related to convening a peace conference. What must be avoided is anything that would distract the parties from the hard choices and decisions that they have yet to make to get to the negotiating table.

As you know, President Bush asked Congress to defer for 120 days consideration of Israel's request for \$10 billion in additional U.S. loan guarantees that are intended to help Israel absorb its many new immigrants. President Bush has made it clear that the request for a delay in no way calls into question the need for a strong and secure Israel. As the President has said, "For more than 40 years, the United States has been Israel's closest friend in the world, and this remains the case and will as long as I am President of the United States."

Delay is being urged by the President for the best of all reasons: peace. It is the President's judgment that if Congress addresses absorption assistance now, a contentious debate will result -- one that could have the effect of losing the participation of either the Arab or the Israeli negotiating partners. If this were to occur, the best chance to promote

Arab/Israeli peace since the Camp David Accords will be lost, with uncertain and potentially dangerous consequences in the region. Postponement will also afford both the Administration and Congress an opportunity to study Israel's needs in greater detail and to craft a program that has the greatest likelihood of promoting successful absorption at minimal taxpayer cost, while at the same time contributing to prospects for peace.

The President appreciates having your views on this important matter, and he sends his best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

^{LAN}
~~Shirley M. Green~~

Special Assistant to the President
^{PL}
for ~~Presidential Messages~~
~~and Correspondence~~

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THE MOST REVEREND EDMOND L. BROWNING
PRESIDING BISHOP, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER
815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK NY 10017
212/867-8400

L. A. Metzger

September 10, 1991

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

Dear Mr. President,

I greatly welcome your leadership in advancing the peace process in the Middle East. While we had our differences over the Gulf crisis a few months ago, I could not be more supportive of your efforts to generate a peace conference in the Middle East.

Your willingness to name Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as a continuing barrier to peace is both courageous and proper. I believe such a position can only improve Arab trust of U.S. good intentions to achieve a just peace.

Specifically, I am very pleased to read of your position to delay guarantees of \$10 billion in housing loans until the peace process has at least begun. I am prepared to support this effort in any way that might be helpful.

May I add that the role of Jim Baker has been absolutely superb. We are all blessed by his initiative for this conference. I hold the both of you in my prayers.

Thank you, dear sir, for the impartial way you are seeking a just peace for all of the Middle East. We are a much stronger nation when we seek justice rather than advantage.

Patti joins me in sending regards to you and Mrs. Bush from our mid-term retreat.

Faithfully yours,

+Edmond L. Browning

Edmond L. Browning
Presiding Bishop

CC: The Secretary of State