

ID# 279914

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CO 001-07

DATE RECEIVED: OCTOBER 22, 1991

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JOSEPH N. MONDELLO

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
AND ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM OF
IMMIGRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF JEWISH
SETTLEMENT IN ISRAEL

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JIM SNYDER		ORG	91/10/22	SS	A 91/11/20
99 State	REFERRAL NOTE:		91/11/20		
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2600 _____
IG 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 * * *

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.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1991

Dear Mr. Modello:

On behalf of the President, thank you for your recent correspondence regarding U.S. policy toward Israel. I appreciate your taking the time to write to the Administration on this matter.

As you know, representatives for Israel, the Arab states, and the Palestinian people recently attended a historic peace conference in Madrid, Spain. For the first time, the parties began to negotiate directly on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, with the objective of a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace. The Administration worked tirelessly to make the conference possible. Moreover, the President made it clear that he and Secretary of State James Baker will work to ensure that the United States continues to play an active role as an honest broker in helping the peace process to succeed. The primary responsibility for peace, however, rests with the parties themselves; the United States cannot and will not impose its preferences on any party.

The Administration recognizes that it will take time to negotiate real peace and that there may be difficulties and possibly interruptions along the way. However, the peace will bring real benefits to everyone. Meanwhile, the United States is continuing to urge the parties to take measures that will bolster mutual confidence and trust -- steps that will signal a sincere commitment to reconciliation -- and to avoid actions that might disrupt the process or prejudice its outcome.

As for the \$10 billion in loan guarantees, intended to help Israel absorb its many new immigrants, President Bush feels strongly that it is in the interest of everyone to have this question, and the inevitable debate it would stimulate, delayed for the time being. What is at issue is not United States support for Israel and its security, which remains strong, nor our support for immigration to Israel, which our Government helped to bring about and hopes to facilitate in the future. Rather, what is shaping the Administration's position on loan guarantees is our commitment to peace and our judgement that anything which might detract from the advancement of the peace process, begun in Madrid, should be avoided at the present time.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the appropriate officials within the State Department for their further review and information. Please be assured that they will give your thoughts the utmost consideration.

With the President's best wishes and my own,

Sincerely,



James J. Snyder
Special Assistant to the President
for Intergovernmental Affairs

Mr. Joseph N. Modello
Presiding Supervisor
Town of Hempstead
Town Hall Plaza
Hempstead, New York 11550

14.
JOSEPH N. MONDELLO
PRESIDING SUPERVISOR



279914

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING SUPERVISOR
TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD
TOWN HALL PLAZA, HEMPSTEAD, N. Y. 11550
IV 9-5000

October 15, 1991

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

Dear Mr. President:

For more than 40 years, one of the foremost goals of this Nation's foreign policy has been the achievement of a real and lasting peace in the Middle East. This often elusive goal has been doggedly pursued in a bi-partisan fashion by Democratic and Republican administrations alike.

Throughout the years, America's quest for a just and equitable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been centered on the firm, resolute, and deep-seated friendship between this Nation, and the region's lone democracy, Israel. American-Israeli friendship is more than just an historical fact, it is a bond between two peoples who share the same system of government, the same firm belief in God, and the same desire to live in peace with their neighbors.

Regardless of the circumstances, America and Israel have stood firmly together, often arrayed against overwhelming forces bent on the destruction of the system of government which both peoples cherish so deeply.

Now, at this crucial juncture in the history of the world, at a period when the realization of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East has never been nearer at hand, the United States must remain true to its decades long friendship and commitment to Israel and its peace loving people.

And as we near the goal which our Nation has struggled so long and hard to achieve, we must remain true to that element of American-Israeli friendship which has played a central role in America's policy toward Israel since its founding more than 40 years ago: Freedom of immigration and encouragement of Jewish settlement in Israel.

The right and ability of Jews around the world to

settle in the Holy Land must never be sacrificed to the expediencies of international politics. A policy which ensures and encourages Jewish immigration to Israel must remain central to our Nation's efforts on behalf of achieving a peaceful and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The record of the Reagan and Bush administrations on the subject of Jewish immigration is outstanding. Thanks to your efforts and those of your much beloved predecessor, thousands of Jewish families have been able to escape the horrors of oppression and anti-Semitism to start a new life in Israel. During those darkest hours when Jewish immigration slowed to just a trickle, it was the United States, standing virtually alone, which held out a beacon of hope to those poor and oppressed men, women, and children whose only desire in life was to live free as Jews in the Jewish state.

America must never waver from this resolve. Thanks to the support of the Reagan and Bush administrations, Jewish immigration is at an all time high. But all our noble efforts to secure a new life for these brave pioneers of freedom will have been for nothing if the Israeli government is unable to provide them with the means to start their lives anew in Israel.

I firmly support continued American financial support for Jewish settlement in Israel. These brave men and women must not be forgotten now that peace may finally be at hand. American financial support is vital for these families seeking to live in peace as Jews in Israel.

The bond which the American people feel for the people of Israel is unshakeable. Throughout the turmoil of the past 40 years we have shared their pain and exulted in the continuing triumph of freedom over oppression which the Jewish state has come to embody.

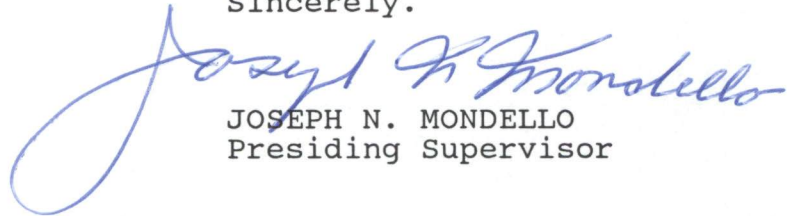
The people of Israel are our brothers and sisters, we must not forget them at a time when they need us most.

I strongly urge that American financial support for Jewish settlements in Israel remain a central element of our Nation's foreign policy. Jewish immigration must never be allowed to be held hostage to the Byzantine maze of international politics.

Too much is at stake. Too many years of American-Israeli friendship have come and gone for this Nation to abandon a principle which the American and Israeli people have pursued together for so long: Freedom of immigration for all those seeking freedom from oppression and freedom from religious persecution.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views.
I am confident that you will continue to pursue a just
policy toward Israel which remains firmly committed to
fostering freedom of immigration.

Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph N. Mondello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JOSEPH N. MONDELLO
Presiding Supervisor