

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 06, 1989

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. STEPHEN N. GELL

SUBJECT: WRITES ABOUT SITUATION IN ISRAEL AND URGES
NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAELI AND ARAB LEADERS

C0074
PLDECA

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
State Department	Israeli Affairs Desk	A	89/03/14	DESA	C 89/03/14
SARAH DECAMP		ORG	89/03/06		C 8904/19
99005	REFERRAL NOTE:				
State Department	Israeli Affairs Desk	A	89/03/14	DESA	C 89/03/15
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
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	REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8905938

Date April 12, 1989

FOR: Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: The President

From: Mr. Stephen Gell

Date: February 10, 1989

Subject: Situation in Israel and urges negotiations with
Israeli and Arab leaders

WH Referral Dated: March 21, 1989
NSCS ID# (if any): 013650

_____ 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.
- xx _____ 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:


John P. Smer
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR - 3 1989

Mr. Stephen N. Gell
President,
Jewish Community Council of
Greater Washington
1522 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Gell:

I have been asked to respond to your recent letter to the President in which you commented on the 1988 Human Rights Report on Israel and the Occupied Territories. We appreciated having your views.

As we made clear in the report, the situation in the West Bank and Gaza is unique. Those Territories remain under military government pending an end to the occupation and a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We are dealing not with the action of a government toward its own citizens, but with the actions of a military government, applying both civilian and military law in occupied territories. In any case, our human rights policy is concerned with limitations on the powers of government for the protection of the integrity and dignity of the individual.

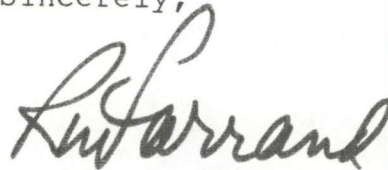
The situation in the Occupied Territories is rendered more complex by the Palestinian uprising which has been going on since December, 1987. As we mentioned in the report, Israel's situation is also different because it is a democratic and open society, and thus greater detail is available on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza than would be the case in more closed societies. We try our best to apply uniform standards in the preparation of our reports, but reports on open societies are inevitably more thorough and detailed than those on closed ones.

Nonetheless, we believe that our report took this unique situation into account. While acknowledging Israel's responsibility to maintain order in the Territories, the report also reflected our view that certain Israeli security practices constitute excessive rather than measured responses to the situation and hinder peace efforts. The Israeli authorities are well aware of our views.

We deplore the violence in the West Bank and Gaza and have called on all sides to exercise restraint to create an atmosphere conducive to peace efforts. This situation underscores the need for a resolution of the underlying political problem. We will continue to work, as have past American Administrations, to start the process of direct negotiations among parties to the conflict. We believe that only such negotiations can lead to a comprehensive and enduring peace.

In the meantime, our support for the state of Israel remains undiminished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. W. Farrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "F".

Robert W. Farrand
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

8905938

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

'89 MAR-21 12:08 PM

REFERRAL

MARCH 21, 1989

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

REMARKS: ATTN: ISRAEL AFFAIRS DESK

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 013650

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 10, 1989

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

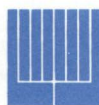
FROM: MR. STEPHEN N. GELL
PRESIDENT
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF GREATER
WASHINGTON
1522 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20005

SUBJECT: WRITES ABOUT SITUATION IN ISRAEL AND URGES
NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAELI AND ARAB LEADERS

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



JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
1522 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005 • (202) 347-4628
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

February 10, 1989

8905938

'89 MAR-21 12:09 PM

TO: President George Bush

FROM: Stephen N. Gell, President

The Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington has been consistent during the last 14 months of the Intifada in expressing anguish at the loss of life and injury suffered by Israelis and by Palestinian Arabs, in deploring the violent acts by Palestinian Arabs in the territories, in recognizing Israel's obligation to control violence and illegal acts in the territories and in recognizing the lack of Arab negotiating partners as the root cause of Palestinian Arab frustration.

The just-published State Department Human Rights Report gives justifiably high praise to Israel as a full-blown democracy committed to the rule of law and with a system of citizen rights and privileges equal to that of other great democracies, including our own.

But that same report is highly critical of Israel's performance in the territories. Indeed, State Department sources have noted that their criticism of Israel is motivated in part because of the open, democratic nature of Israeli society.

The Intifada is not a peaceful or benign demonstration. Molotov cocktails and firebombs thrown at Israeli targets including buses and through the open window of passenger cars, abuses of sanctuary areas such as hospitals and ambulances as staging grounds for riots and violence, etc., require decisive Israeli response.

There is debate both in Israel and in the United States over some of the specific tactics Israeli officials have employed to control violence in the territories. But there is agreement that Israel cannot simply ignore these violent acts without endangering the security of the general population.

The State Department Report on Israel seems to be a skewed review of the facts. Israel's action in the territories has been defensive, and Israel remains fully committed to peace for all residents in the area -- Israelis and Arabs alike -- as has been clearly evident during Israel's long period of administration of the territories.

The Jewish Community Council renews its call on responsible Arab leaders to come forward and enter into direct, face-to-face negotiations with Israel as the only reasonable way to achieve peace and to fulfill the aspirations of all of the peoples in the area.

The Jewish Community Council also calls on the government of the United States to use its good offices to foster such negotiations, and to refrain from seeking to pressure Israel for unilateral and security-threatening policy changes.

The central, representative body of over 215 affiliated Jewish organizations in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, devoted to community relations, information and action.

MEMBER AGENCY OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL
BENEFICIARY OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL FEDERATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON