

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

00074

DATE RECEIVED: NOVEMBER 16, 1989

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE GERARD C. SMITH

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING THE VISIT BY MR. SHAMIR'S
VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON NOV 15 89 AND RECENT
REPORTS THAT ISRAEL HAS HELPED SOUTH AFRICA
TO DEVELOP MISSILES

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
DEPARTMENT OF STATE		ORG	89/11/16	WS	489/12/13
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

MI 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.

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8926801

Date December 13, 1989

For: Mr. Philip Hughes
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

Reference:

To: President George Bush From: Ambassador Gerard C. Smith
Date: November 1, 1989 Subject: Israel's help to
South Africa; development of nuclear missiles.
Referral Dated: November 20, 1989 ID# 090903
(if any)

_____ 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.
XXX _____ 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:

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

John Emerson
for Director
Secretariat Staff

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

December 13, 1989

The Honorable
Gerard C. Smith
4200 Massachusetts Ave, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20016

Dear Ambassador Smith:

I am replying to your thoughtful letter of November 1 to President Bush suggesting that we open a dialogue with Israel regarding nuclear weapons proliferation.

As you know from your own long experience in the field, the task of achieving stability and security in the Middle East region is one of the most difficult foreign policy challenges we face. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region - nuclear, chemical, and biological - and the means to deliver them are problems of deep concern to us. We recognize that the peace process must include efforts to stem weapons proliferation in the Middle East.

As you suggest, we have continued to raise the implications of nuclear proliferation with Israel, as well as with other states in the region. We continue to urge Israel and all states to undertake binding non-proliferation commitments through the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or equivalent instruments, and to accept safeguards over their entire nuclear programs. We have also told the Israelis on many occasions that we cannot respond to their requests for peaceful nuclear assistance until they accept full scope safeguards. In this light, recent decisions by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to accede to the NPT have made a positive contribution.

At the International Atomic Energy Agency and in the United Nations General Assembly, we continue to support the initiative to achieve progress on a Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. Although there is broad support for this initiative, both by Israel and by Arab states, the problem of defining modalities has, up to now, prevented concrete progress. We have urged Israel to join the NPT as a way of improving conditions for the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East.

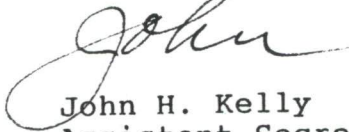
You also mention the problem of missile proliferation, which is especially destabilizing in a region where nuclear and chemical weapons threaten to spread. The United States has played the leading role in attempting to address this problem on all levels - multilateral, regional, and bilateral. The

Missile Technology Control Regime seeks to restrain the spread of missile technology and equipment to nations of proliferation concern in the Middle East, as well as other parts of the world.

Our efforts to stem nuclear and other advanced weapons proliferation in the Middle East have not ignored Israel's capabilities. Our goal is for Israel and other nations in the region to recognize that it is illusory to seek enhanced security through the acquisition of nuclear or chemical/biological weapons or missiles. The solution lies in concrete measures to reduce tensions, build mutual confidence and promote stability. We will continue to press this view with Israel and its neighbors.

In closing, let me express my appreciation for your thoughts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John H. Kelly
Assistant Secretary of State for
Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

80280H
8720001
'89 NOV-18 1:05 PM

NOVEMBER 20, 1989

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 090903

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED NOVEMBER 1, 1989

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: THE HONORABLE GERARD C. SMITH
4200 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20016

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING THE VISIT BY MR. SHAMIR'S
VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON NOV 15 89 AND RECENT
REPORTS THAT ISRAEL HAS HELPED SOUTH AFRICA
TO DEVELOP MISSILES

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

8. — 005 90903

GERARD C. SMITH

November 1, 1989

President George H. W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear George:

On the occasion of Mr. Shamir's visit to
Washington - November 15, 1989.

I

Recent reports that Israel has helped South Africa to develop missiles make it timely for close friends Israel and the United States to consider together where the course of weapons development is taking them. It is no secret that Israel with American acquiescence, if not approval, has built many nuclear weapons - and this in the face of American's prime foreign policy of opposing the spread of nuclear weapons anywhere around the world.

The time has long since past when American officials used to talk to Israeli officials about the implications of this extreme case of proliferation. Yet many thoughtful observers believe that if ever nuclear weapons are again exploded in anger they will be triggered by hostilities originating in a crisis involving Israel.

II

Radical Changes in the foreign relations of the United States are taking place elsewhere - and at

great speed. I hope that you, encouraged by the improvement in Soviet-American relations, will consider it timely and to our advantage to start to change American toleration of the great danger that Mid-East nuclear weapons present and engage in a dialogue with Mr. Shamir looking to restoring a more realistic and balanced nuclear relationship.

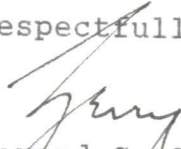
The timeliness of such a dialogue is also suggested by the recent restiveness of leading elements of American Jewry caused by certain Israeli policies.

Israel's apparent lack of interest in American suggestion's looking to progress toward a negotiation about the Palestinian question do not indicate that a nuclear dialogue would offer much early prospect of success but that is all the more reason for making a START.

III

You recently were reported as saying that the idea of American cooperation with Israel aiding South Africa missilry was "Taboo". How about ending the other taboo that has encumbered Israeli-American nuclear relations for much too long?

Respectfully,


Gerard C. Smith
Former Ambassador at Large
for Non-Proliferation Matters