

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CO 074

DATE RECEIVED: JANUARY 24, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE REVEREND WILLIAM BOYD GROVE

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO REEXAMINE THE AMERICAN
POLICY CONCERNING ISRAEL DUE TO THE BRUTAL
TREATMENT IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY THE
ISRAELI MILITARY

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
DOUG WEAD		ORG	90/01/24		C 90/1/25 TR
DOS	REFERRAL NOTE:	D	90/1/30		C 90/02/08 TR
BLD. Wead	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	90/02/12		C 90/2/12 TC
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: WRITER JUST RETURNED FROM A 12-DAY VISIT TO
THE MIDDLE EAST

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.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 14, 1990

Dear Bishop Grove:

I have been asked to respond to your letters to the President and the Secretary regarding conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

We share your concern about the situation in the occupied territories and the cycle of violence. We acknowledge Israel's responsibility as an occupying power to keep order in the West Bank and Gaza but we object to the use of excessive force and to security practices which are counter-productive to peace efforts and contravene the Fourth Geneva Convention. We have made our views clearly known to the Government of Israel and have urged that those responsible for the use of excessive force be disciplined.

The political and security context of the West Bank and Gaza makes the situation unique. These areas have remained under Israeli occupation since the 1967 War, pending a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Since 1967, there have been episodic but sometimes intense outbreaks of violence in the occupied territories, reflecting Palestinian opposition to the occupation.

The beginning of the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, in December 1987 brought an outburst of civilian unrest and violence which has continued up to the present in a more widespread and intensive form than before the uprising began. This has led to a severe crackdown by the Israeli Defense Forces.

We have urged both sides to exercise restraint, and we will continue to do so. However, absent political progress it is unlikely that the situation will improve. The violence over more than two years brings home the need for a political solution. The U.S. has responded to the situation by its support for an Israel peace proposal calling for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and elections leading to negotiations on transitional arrangements and final status. We are making intensive efforts to bring Israeli and Palestinians to dialogue.

Our efforts for peace are grounded on the principles which have long guided us: we seek a comprehensive peace, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which involve Israeli withdrawal in exchange for peace, the establishment of security of all states in the region, including Israel, and achievement of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians.

4/4/90
Kathy -
I just found
this letter.
my recommendation
is to go with the
DOS response.
But it may be too
late. What do you
think we should do?
Sarah D

Sarah -
I was asked to answer this.
Sent it off to State, whose suggested
response is too tough. Can you or
Bobbi suggest something to help draft
a better answer?

In December 1988, the PLO changed its policy and met the long-standing conditions for the United States to open a substantive dialogue with the organization. We have done so through our Ambassador in Tunis. We seek to encourage Palestinians to find practical ways to move forward in the peace process which could lead to peace.

Sincerely,

Doug Wead
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

The Reverend William Boyd Grove
Methodist Bishop
The United Methodist Church
West Virginia Area
900 Washington Street, East
Charleston, WV 25301

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S: 9002226

Date: February 8, 1990

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush
From: The Reverend William Boyd Grove
Date: January 19, 1990
Subject: Reexamine the American policy
concerning Israel due to the Brutal treatment

White House Referral Dated: January 30, 1990

NSCS ID Number (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.
- _____ 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:

Philip Hughes
for Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DRAFT REPLY

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We have urged both sides to exercise restraint, and we will continue to do so. However, absent political progress it is unlikely that the situation will improve. The violence over more than two years brings home the need for a political solution. The U.S. has responded to the situation by its support for an Israeli peace proposal calling for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and elections leading to negotiations on transitional arrangements and final status. We are making intensive efforts to bring Israelis and Palestinians to dialogue.

Our efforts for peace are grounded on the principles which have long guided us: we seek a comprehensive peace, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which involve Israeli withdrawal in exchange for peace, the establishment of security of all states in the region, including Israel, and achievement of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians.

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Sincerely,

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

JANUARY 30, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 107128

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JANUARY 19, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: THE REVEREND WILLIAM BOYD GROVE
METHODIST BISHOP
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WEST VIRGINIA AREA
900 WASHINGTON STRET, EAST
CHARLESTON WV 25301

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO REEXAMINE THE AMERICAN
POLICY CONCERNING ISRAEL DUE TO THE BRUTAL
TREATMENT IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY THE
ISRAELI MILITARY

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

.107128



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WEST VIRGINIA AREA
900 WASHINGTON STREET, EAST

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25301

WILLIAM BOYD GROVE
BISHOP

(304) 344-8330

W. Wood
January 19, 1990

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have just returned from a twelve-day visit to the Middle East on a mission of friendship to the Christian churches there representing the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church. I was in Cyprus, Cairo, Amman, Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

I visited refugee camps and church hospitals and had 35 extended conversations with church leaders (nearly all of whom are Palestinian, of course), rabbis and citizens of Israel, and the Minister of Religious Affairs of the Government of Israel.

I am convinced that the conduct of the Israeli military in the occupied territories is brutal to a degree equal perhaps to the treatment of Blacks in South Africa under Apartheid. I can scarcely imagine more grievous violations of human rights than those being perpetrated by the government of Israel in the West Bank and Gaza.

I urge you to reexamine American policy concerning Israel and the Middle East and to use your influence on behalf of the following:

1. The restoration of full human rights to all Palestinians.
2. The recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to choose their own representatives, even if they choose to be represented by the PLO. All Palestinians expressed to me their profound disappointment that neither Israel nor the United States has responded to the initiative taken by the PLO many months ago meeting all American conditions for recognition. For the most part the renunciation of terrorism prevails which is amazing considering the brutality of the occupying army.

President George H. W. Bush

Page 2

January 19, 1990

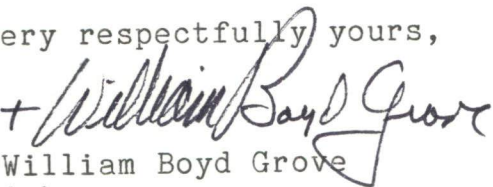
3. The withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories as anticipated in the Camp David Accord.

Moderates among the Palestinians are trying to retain leadership, but if Palestinian grievances are not soon addressed, extremists will seize control and all hope of a just peace will be lost, perhaps for years to come.

I believe that a just resolution of Palestinian grievances is in the political, economic, and moral best interest of Israel, as well as of the Palestinians themselves.

The unquestioning, uncritical support of destructive Israeli policy by the United States must yield to a more critical response, particularly to violations of human rights that contradict all the highest values of both Israel and the United States.

Very respectfully yours,

+ 

+William Boyd Grove
Bishop

WBG:lr