

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

C0074

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 08, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JAWARD F. GEORGE

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PUBLICLY DECLARE THAT
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA ARE
ILLEGAL AND AN IMPEDIMENT TO PEACE

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SICHAN SIV		ORG	90/02/08		C 90/02/09
REFERRAL NOTE:					
OPL JENONS		A	90/02/09		C 90/02/09
REFERRAL NOTE:					
NS80W		A	90/02/09		C 90/02/09
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:		R	90/2/26		A 90/03/09
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4400 4900

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			*

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 9004347

Date March 13, 1990

FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann
Acting Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: Mr. Jaward F. George

Date: February 6, 1990

Subject: Urges the President to declare that Israeli
settlements are illegal

WH Referral Dated: February 26, 1990
NSCS ID# (if any): 111818

_____ 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.

X X 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:

Colin L. Fuses
for Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 9, 1990

Mr. Jawad F. George
Executive Director
National Association of Arab Americans
Suite 300
2033 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3399

Dear Mr. George:

I have been asked to answer your February 6 letter to the President advocating that the Administration publicly declare Israeli settlements in the occupied territories to be illegal. We appreciate your having shared with us the views of the NAAA.

I am sure you are aware of our often repeated position that we view settlements as an obstacle to peace. While we have clear objections to settlements, we have not determined that it is productive to address the legal issue. We have called on the Government of Israel to refrain from establishing new or expanding existing settlements or settling new immigrants in the territories. As I am sure you know, the U.S. welcomes and supports the immigration of Jews to Israel, but we have said that we view putting more settlers into the occupied territories, particularly at this time, as working against the cause of peace.

You raised in your letter the matter of the human rights implications of settlements. You may have seen that in the 1989 Human Rights Report on the occupied territories we take note of the discrimination which Palestinians face because of the dual system of governance--one set of laws for Israeli settlers and another for Palestinians--and because of Israeli land policies in the occupied territories.

I was glad to have the opportunity to address the issues which you raised in your letter.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. McKune
Acting Director
Office of Israel
and Arab-Israeli Affairs

9004347

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

REFERRAL

FEBRUARY 26, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 111818

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 6, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. JAWARD F. GEORGE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB
AMERICANS
2033 M STREET, NW.
SUITE 300
WASHINGTON DC 20036

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO PUBLICLY DECLARE THAT
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA ARE
ILLEGAL AND AN IMPEDIMENT TO PEACE

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



11

February 6, 1990

9004347

J. Sir

President George Bush
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing you on behalf of the National Association of Arab Americans to urge that you publicly declare Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza to be illegal and an impediment to peace. Such a declaration would bring the US position on this matter into conformity with the policy adhered to by three successive US administrations before 1982, including both the Nixon and Ford administrations.

Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to which Israel is a signatory, states that "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer part of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Israel voluntarily signed these conventions. Under the provisions of the Geneva Convention, therefore, Israel is clearly in violation of international law.

Such settlements, moreover, are built and expanded by dispossessing Palestinian families from land which they have inhabited for generations. This dispossession, implemented through various forms of bureaucratic tactics, is inhumane. Such arbitrary evictions are often carried out by the Israeli government in order to make room for individuals who may have immigrated to the Middle East days or even hours before.

A strong and unequivocal statement by you opposing such settlements and characterizing them as blatant illegalities would do much to discourage further encroachments by Israel on the inalienable human and political rights of the Palestinians under its occupation. History has repeatedly shown that a clear and forthright stand on moral grounds by an American president will elicit compliance from the Israeli government. Your moral leadership on this vital issue is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jawad F. George
Executive Director