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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 14, 1990

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter.

Keep up the good work!

Regards,



John H. Sununu
Chief of Staff

The Honorable Tom Campbell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 3, 1990

The Honorable John Sununu
Chief of Staff
The White House
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138464
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WOMEN'S ISSUES

Dear Governor:

I was one of the few Republicans to vote against H.Con.Res. 290, passed by the House of Representatives last week, concerning the status of Jerusalem. I wanted to share some of my reasoning on this point with you, in the hope of helping with an idea or two. I would appreciate your keeping this letter confidential.

H.Con.Res. 290, I believe, is inconsistent with the position of President Bush and the position of every other president since Harry Truman. Passage of H.Con.Res. 290 in the present context puts to the fore the question of Jerusalem's legal status, the most intractable point of those presently dividing Israel and her Arab neighbors. It would take from the table the discussions just now promising fruit between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and would substitute in its place a point on which there is no likelihood of agreement. It hampers the position of the United States as facilitator of the peace process. And it unfairly, implicitly criticizes President Bush for restating what has been unbroken U.S. policy on the status of Jerusalem -- that it is a subject for negotiation between all parties. No American President has ever recognized Jerusalem formally as the capital of Israel, including Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan, two of Israel's greatest friends.

The timing of the resolution also made it an implicit vindication of the Israeli settlements in the Christian part of Jerusalem just ruled illegal by the Israeli Supreme Court. The position of the United States has always been that the building of new settlements by Israelis on land not within the pre-1967 borders is illegal and extremely deleterious to reaching peace. In restating that position, President Bush did nothing to weaken the fact that the state of Israel, and the peace process itself, has no better friend than he.

Best regards,

Congressman Tom Campbell