

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CO 074

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 12, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MOST REVEREND RENE H. GRACIDA

SUBJECT: OFFERS HIS THOUGHTS REGARDING U.S./ISRAEL
RELATIONS

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
JOHN SUNUNU		ORG	90/06/12	JS	490/06/18
99005	REFERRAL NOTE:		90/6/25		/ /
Doug Wead	REFERRAL NOTE:		90/6/22		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

CS 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

June 18, 1990

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your recent letter outlining your concerns for the United States' policy towards Israel.

I will share your letter with Secretary Baker and his staff for further review.

Your insight is very helpful to us. Thank you for taking the time to write.

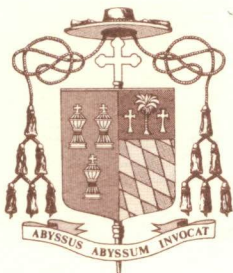
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Sununu", is written over a circular stamp.

John H. Sununu
Chief of Staff

The Most Reverend Rene H. Gracida
Bishop of Corpus Christi
Post Office Box 2620
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

144018



04 June 1990

The Honorable John Sununu
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Sununu:

I have recently returned from a visit to Israel where I had the dubious privilege of witnessing the takeover of the Greek-Orthodox Saint John Center in the old city of Jerusalem. I would like to offer for your consideration some thoughts about U.S. foreign policy in regard to Israel. I have always been inclined to favor our country's support for the continued existence of the state of Israel, but in the light of the current situation in Israel I fear that the United States has gone too far in encouraging Israel's unacceptable behavior.

Specifically, I do not believe that we should support the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories. Nor do I believe that it is in anyone's best interest for the United States to make loans which would enable Israel to settle Russian immigrants in Israel and the occupied territories. Israel should be urged to enter into serious and good faith negotiations to end the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as soon as possible. Since Soviet influence is no longer of paramount concern to us, we should definitely cut back on our foreign aid to Israel.

It would be well for us to let the leaders of Israel know that we expect them to make it on their own with a non-socialist economy; it is absurd for us to subsidize a socialist economy when we are encouraging the nations of Eastern Europe to abandon socialism in favor of free-enterprise democracy.

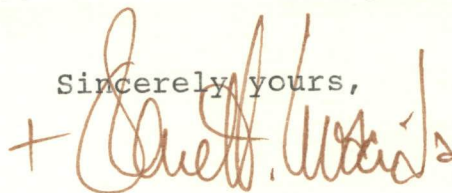
Under no circumstances should we agree that the capital of Israel should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem or that our Embassy should be located in Jerusalem. In fact, our continued support of Israel should be conditioned on the understanding that Jerusalem will remain an international city with no further encroachment on the rights of the territories of the various sects and people located there.

Letter to The Honorable John Sununu
04 June 1990
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There is certainly a growing cynicism in the United States today with regard to U.S. policy in regard to Israel. I am convinced that public opinion is turning in favor of a shift in U.S. policy in favor of a more even handed treatment of Israel and the Palestinian people. I urge you to bring about a change in U.S. policy in this regard.

Looking forward to observing a change in policies of both the executive and legislative branches of our government, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Rene H. Gracida". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rene H. Gracida
Bishop of Corpus Christi

RHG:lc.