

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0074

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 19, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MOST REVEREND EDMOND L. BROWNING

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO INFORM ISRAEL THAT IT
MUST COMPLY MORE FULLY WITH INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS OR RISK THE REDUCTION
OF AMERICAN AID AND SUPPORT

		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	90/06/19		C 90/6/20
✓ NSC SCOW	REFERRAL NOTE:		D 90/6/27		C 90/6/29
	REFERRAL NOTE:		R 90/07/05		A 90/07/12
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
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COMMENTS:

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.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9015113

Date July 13, 1990

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: Reverend Edmond L. Browning

Date: May 24, 1990

Subject: Intifada and urges Israel to comply more fully with
international human rights standards or risk reduction
in U.S. aid and support.

WH Referral Dated: July 5, 1990

NSCS ID# (if any): 151060

 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.

 xx 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

Karen Emmerson
Director
Secretariat Staff



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 12, 1990

The Most Reverend Edmond L. Browning
Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Bishop Browning:

I have been asked to reply to your May 24 letter to the President regarding the violence in the occupied territories.

I can assure you that the human rights situation in the occupied territories is of deep concern to the United States. As you noted in your letter, the Administration voiced that concern at the highest level with the President's May 22 statement on the Rishon Lezion killings and their aftermath.

We have called for maximum restraint by the Israeli security forces and others. We welcomed and support the mission by UN official Jean-Claude Aime, who has just completed a visit to Israel and the occupied territories on behalf of the Secretary General. We hope that his visit will help improve the situation on the ground. Mr. Aime will be reporting his findings and recommendations to the Secretary General.

We have consistently made clear our opposition to settlements in the occupied territories, as well as to the takeover by settlers of the St. John's Hospice building in the Old City of Jerusalem last April. This issue is now in the courts, but we continue to believe that all of the settlers should be out of the Hospice as soon as possible. We were distressed that Ministry of Housing funds financed part of the purchase of the sublease on the Hospice building by the company which acted on the settler's behalf. We took the Hospice issue up with Israel in diplomatic channels, and expressed our strong objection to what happened in a public statement last April.

We acknowledge Israel's responsibility to maintain security in the occupied territories but oppose the use of excessive force to do so. We also oppose Israeli practices which we believe are counterproductive to peace efforts. We have shared with the Israelis our concerns about such issues as deportations, use of lethal force to control demonstrations or in security sweeps, curfews which adversely affect innocent members of the population, allegations of mistreatment of prisoners, detention policies, and the discipline of security forces. Israel is well aware of our position on these issues.

The situation in the occupied territories demonstrates the need to bring about a resolution of the underlying problems of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The U.S. has made serious efforts in this regard. We will continue those efforts with the new government in Israel. The Administration is prepared to assist the parties in the Middle East toward attainment of a just and durable peace.

We believe that a secure Israel is one of the elements necessary to achieving such a peace. Our aid to Israel, which represents a long-standing commitment to Israel's security over several U.S. administrations, is designed to help further the cause of peace. Accordingly, I would expect that our aid to Israel in the near future will remain substantial. As I am sure you are aware, our long-standing policy is that U.S. aid funds are not to be used in the occupied territories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Daniel C. Kurtzer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized script.

Daniel C. Kurtzer
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

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

REFERRAL

9015113
JUL 5 1990
'90 JUL-05 7:54 PM

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 151060

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 24, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MOST REVEREND EDMOND L. BROWNING
PRESIDING BISHOP
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER
815 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10017

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO INFORM ISRAEL THAT IT
MUST COMPLY MORE FULLY WITH INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS OR RISK THE REDUCTION
OF AMERICAN AID AND SUPPORT

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



THE MOST REVEREND EDMOND L. BROWNING
PRESIDING BISHOP, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER
815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10017

212/867-8400

May 24, 1990

D. Wood
The Honorable George Bush
President of the U.S.
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Once again I feel compelled to address you on a matter of profound distress for the Episcopal Church in the United States and for the Christian community throughout the world. I refer to the tragic level of violence to which the Palestinian people have been subjected by the security forces of Israel. The numbers of persons who have been killed and wounded during such a brief period have rarely if ever been exceeded in the past. The lack of restraint on the part of the Israeli military personnel has been inexcusable.

I appreciate the fact that you have already expressed great concern regarding the violent Israeli response and that the U.S. Government has called for maximum restraint by Israeli security forces. Mr. Baker's support of an international peace keeping force to help resolve the crisis is welcome. Furthermore, I would agree with you that the delay of the peace process has clearly led to the eruption of Palestinian frustration in a resurgence of the intifada. I commend you for underscoring this fact in the face of considerable opposition.

Even as you spoke the toll was mounting. However, it seems that the victimization of so many persons in their struggle for self-determination and dignity was not enough and Mr. Shamir's caretaker government announced that \$17 million had been approved for additional illegal construction in the Occupied Territories. Such a decision appears to have been taken in complete defiance of ongoing international condemnation of expansion into lands taken by war.

Mr. President, in my April 24th letter to you, in the wake of the revelation that the Israeli government had secretly channeled almost \$2 million to help fund the occupation of St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem's Old City, I stated my concern that "in providing American funds we free Israeli resources for such irresponsible use." Now we must go further and recognize that American funds are subsidizing the unrestrained repression of an unarmed people.

I believe, Mr. President, that it is time that the Government of Israel be advised that the billions of American dollars it receives annually can no longer be provided unconditionally to a state that is violating the fundamental human rights of an occupied people as well as those of many of its own citizens.

I urge you to inform the Government of Israel that it must comply more fully with international human rights standards, must refrain from the expenditure of its resources for expansion into territories occupied by war, and must actively demonstrate a willingness to engage in peace negotiations, or risk the reduction of American support.

I extend to you my warmest personal regards and assure you of my prayers.

Faithfully yours,



Edmond L. Browning
Presiding Bishop

cc: Secretary of State James Baker

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