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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1990

Dear Mayor Koch:

I have read your letter of May 25 very carefully. I appreciate the time you devoted to writing about the serious issues of peace in the Middle East and the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Every occupant of this office since the birth of Israel, myself included, has believed strongly in U.S. support for the security and well-being of Israel. We have an enduring, fundamental commitment to Israel, one which I am determined to build upon.

I hope you will take another look at our statements. Nothing has changed in our policy on Jerusalem: we want a united city, never to be divided again, with its final status to be decided in negotiations. With respect to the recent violence, no one has blamed Israel for the act of a disturbed individual. The violent aftermath of that event, however, attests to the fundamental point that people must have the hope provided by a promising peace process -- something we continue to believe is in the interest of Israel, the Palestinians, and the United States. Finally, by now you will have noted our veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution on a U.N. role in the Occupied Territories. We vetoed because this resolution went far beyond the limited idea that we were prepared to consider and that Israel had accepted in the past.

Thank you again for your thoughts.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Edward I. Koch
Robinson, Silverman, Pearce
Aronsohn & Berman
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104



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