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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 21, 1990

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN 4288

90 JUN 21 10 074
P9:12

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT (B)

SUBJECT: Reply to Ed Koch

SIGNED

Purpose

To respond to Ed Koch's letter expressing his concerns about the Administration's attitude toward the U.S. relationship with Israel.

Background

Ed Koch wrote you on May 25 (Tab B) to express his reservations about the Administration's handling of the U.S.-Israel relationship. Specifically, he complained about your statement on East Jerusalem, the Administration's criticism (sic) of Israel for a madman's murder of eight Palestinians, and Jim Baker's remark on a U.N. mission to the Occupied Territories.

While Koch's concern is doubtless sincere, his points are misplaced: your position on Jerusalem is 23-year old policy; no Administration spokesperson has blamed Israel for the action of a deranged person; and Jim was talking about a one-time look by an envoy of the Secretary-General, not a force or observer mission.

We have drafted a reassuring response to Koch, drawing upon some of the themes we have set out in public in recent days.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Ed Koch at Tab A.

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Ed Koch
Tab B Letter from Ed Koch

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

June 1, 1990

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: C. DAVID WELCH

SUBJECT: Presidential Reply to Edward Koch

Former mayor Ed Koch wrote the President on May 25 (Tab B), expressing his concerns about the Administration's attitude toward the U.S. relationship with Israel. He cited Administration statements on a number of controversies -- Jerusalem, the murders of the Palestinian workers, and U.N. observers -- as conveying "increasing hostility towards a beleaguered ally."

We have drafted a response that is reassuring about our relationship with Israel and that puts into context our statements.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I, forwarding a suggested reply to Ed Koch at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab I	Memo to the President
Tab A	Letter to Ed Koch
Tab B	Letter from Ed Koch

4288

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May 25, 1990

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

You suggested when last we met that I write to you if I believed there was something to be said on an important matter. I am writing to you with deep respect on a matter of the gravest concern to me and millions of Americans and others throughout the world.

The relationship between the State of Israel and the United States since its inception during the administration of Harry S. Truman and continuing through yours has been a special one of support, even if on occasion there were differences in the foreign policies of Israel and that of our country. We always understood that Israel, a democracy formed by the tattered remnants of history's most murderous period, would have to endure constant threat of attack by Arab countries and by Arab terrorists. Twenty Arab countries even now are in an official state of war with Israel. And I, like Jews and non-Jews, have disagreed with certain of the actions taken by Israel, but at the same time we understand that thousands of young Israelis have laid down their lives on the battlefield in four wars and that tens of thousands more, including innocent civilians, have been injured. Undoubtedly the Israelis have on occasion

exhibited a fortress mentality perhaps similar to that of the British when they stood alone in 1940.

Nevertheless, on balance, indeed overwhelming balance, the democratic air breathed in Israel is so different from that breathed in so many of these Arab states where they kill one another based upon religious schisms, e.g., Lebanon.

Why this prelude? It is to try to convey to you the importance of continued U.S. support of that tiny Jewish nation. I fear that the statements made by yourself and others in your Administration convey increasing hostility towards a beleaguered ally. I am sure you don't see it that way, but let me briefly cite chapter and verse.

Your reference, not so long ago, conveying your opposition to Jewish residence in East Jerusalem, as well as on the West Bank; your Administration's criticism of Israel in the most recent incident where a lunatic Israeli shot and murdered eight Arabs, implying that it is Israel's government's actions that provoked the incident, yet no one in your Administration or the world at large castigates the Jordanian government for the action, not of a lunatic Arab but someone who willfully, for purposes of revenge, attempted to assault, maim and murder, with knife and gun, ten innocent French civilians.

Now to refer to the past: When an Egyptian soldier on duty shot, murdered and maimed innocent Israeli tourists in the Sinai, where was world denunciation of Egypt and President Mubarak? There was none, nor did Israel ask that there be such a response against the Egyptian government or President Mubarak. Mubarak apologized, the Israelis accepted the apology and understood that it was neither his fault nor that of the Egyptian government. Prime Minister Shamir apologizes on behalf of the Jewish nation for the act of a lunatic and the cascade of denunciation continues.

Some will say that the change in the Administration's attitude towards Israel comes as a result of a better relationship between the United States and the U.S.S.R., so that our need for a strong ally in the Middle East is lessened. If that is true then will we not go down in history as fair weather friends? Would you want that appellation applied to your Administration?

The latest matter, not yet finalized but clearly being considered and floated in the press, is the contemplation by Secretary of State Baker of support for an Arab resolution

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at the United Nations to station in Israel and on the West Bank United Nations forces. Such an act would be an outright assault upon the sovereignty of the State of Israel, and worse, would encourage every Arab on the West Bank to increase his and her participation in rioting so as to involve the United Nations even further in the affairs of Israel and the occupied territories.

I urge you for the reasons that I have described and because I would hope that you would want to be remembered, as President Reagan is, for having supported and stood by our only ally in the Middle East, the State of Israel, to consider the broader implications of these issues. In the event that such a resolution is brought before the Security Council, I urge you to direct that the United States delegate cast a veto.

All the best to you and Barbara, and I hope your brief holiday is filled with joy and covered with sunlight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'E. Koch', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edward I. Koch

EIK/ft

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9004288
RECEIVED: 30 MAY 90 08

TO: KOCH, EDWARD I

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 27 JUN 90
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: ISRAEL

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: REPLY TO FORMER MAYOR KOCH RE ISRAEL

ACTION: PRES SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 02 JUN 90

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

LOGREF: 9004218

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

HAASS
WELCH
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

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CLOSED BY: NSRLG

DOC 4 OF 4

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9004288

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 HAASS
002 SCOWCROFT
003 PRESIDENT
004

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 90053008 PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT
Z 90060415 FWD TO PRES FOR SIG
Z 90062718 FOR SIGNATURE
X 90062718 PRES SGD LTR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9004288
RECEIVED: 30 MAY 90 08

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: KOCH, EDWARD I

DOC DATE: 25 MAY 90
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: ISRAEL

MP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM KOCH RE US RELATIONSHIP W/ ISRAEL

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR SCOWCROFT

DUE DATE: 02 JUN 90

STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

HAASS

FOR CONCURRENCE

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FOR INFO

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COMMENTS: _____

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OPENED BY: NSW

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

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PLtr to Ed Koch
re - Israel

National Security Council
The White House

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LOG # 4288

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

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BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

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Bob Gates	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	
Brent Scowcroft	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	
Bill Sittmann			
Situation Room	<u>4</u>		<u>D</u>
West Wing Desk			
NSC Secretariat			

A = Action

I = Information

D = Dispatch

R = Retain

N = No further Action

cc: VP Sununu Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

(Exec Sec office has diskette)

**National Security Council
The White House**

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Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>1</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>N</u>
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90 JUN 27 P 5: 11

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cc: VP Sununu Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

DATE 6/27 ?