

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0074

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: OCTOBER 26, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: NISHMA

SUBJECT: PROJECT NISHMA URGES STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY
BOTH ISRAELI AND AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TO
REDUCE TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIES

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SARAH DECAMP		ORG	90/10/26		C 90/11/02
99 DOS	REFERRAL NOTE: 	A	90/11/07		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
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	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: INCOMING CONTAINS NO SIGNATURES, JUST LISTS
OF CO-CHAIRS AND BOARD MEMBERS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4800

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*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			*

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
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9009271
RECEIVED: 26 NOV 90 10

TO: GREEN, S

FROM: SITTMANN

DOC DATE: 26 DEC 90
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: ISRAEL

MP

PERSONS: MANN, THEODORE R
ROSOVSKY, HENRY

RAAB, EARL

SUBJECT: DRAFT REPLY TO MANN / RAAB / ROSOVSKY

ACTION: SITTMANN SGD MEMO

DUE DATE: 29 NOV 90

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
EXECSEC
HAASS
WELCH

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY

SLM

DATE

13/26

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSRCB

CLOSED BY: NSGLM

DOC

4 OF

4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9009271

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 HAASS
003 SITTMANN
004

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 90112611 MEMO WFS TO SHIRLEY GREEN
Z 90122412 FOR SIGNATURE
X 90122611 SITTMANN SGD MEMO

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: MSN

LOG # 9271

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG 24 A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
<u>Ker Hill</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>A</u>
<u>Bill Sittmann</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>✓</u>	
Bob Gates			
Brent Scowcroft			
Bill Sittmann			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>27.12.66</u>	<u>N</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>	<u>12/26</u>	<u>D</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No further Action

cc: VP Sununu Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

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

REFERRAL

9023791

'90 NOV-07 4:41 PM

NOVEMBER 7, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 186088

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED OCTOBER 25, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM:
PROJECT NISHMA
LET US LISTEN
1225 15TH STREET, NW.
WASHINGTON DC 20005

SUBJECT: PROJECT NISHMA URGES STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY
BOTH ISRAELI AND AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TO
REDUCE TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIES

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

Dear Sirs:

I am responding to your thoughtful letter of October 25 to President Bush concerning U.S.-Israeli relations.

As demonstrated during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shamir, the U.S.-Israeli relationship is fundamentally sound, and we continue to cooperate and work closely together in areas of mutual interest and concern from strategic cooperation to agricultural research. The U.S. commitment to Israel's security and well-being is unshakable. The Administration values this relationship, and is committed to its continuation. This does not mean that friends cannot disagree.

We deeply regret the violence on the Temple Mount of October 8, including the stoning of worshippers at the Western Wall as inexcusable act. We have extended our condolences to those who were injured. At the same time, we strongly believe that the Israeli security forces resorted to excessive force to suppress the demonstrators.

We voted in favor of United Nations Security Council Resolution 672, 673 and 681 to state clearly our opposition to the use of excessive force on October 8 and to Israel's recent decision to resume deportations. Secretary of State Baker has publicly stated that we would have voted for Resolution 672 even if there was no crisis in the Persian Gulf. Those who attribute our votes to the temporary requirements of global politics underestimate our deep concern for human rights and the

application and observance of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Our commitment to assist Israel in providing housing and otherwise integrating immigrants from the Soviet Union into Israel is unquestioned. The United States has worked long and hard in support of Soviet emigration, and shares Israeli satisfaction in its achievement. We are working to implement a \$400 million program in Housing Investment Guarantees to support absorption of Soviet Jews.

This Administration, as its predecessors, has affirmed its position that Jerusalem must remain united. However, again as previous Administrations, we believe that the final status of Jerusalem can only be ultimately determined in the negotiating process as part of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. We consider unilateral acts to be unhelpful and counter-productive to an atmosphere conducive to the establishment of a negotiating process.

These issues clearly illustrate the importance of achieving progress in the peace process. The United States has worked for several decades in partnership with Israel to develop a path towards peace in the Middle East. We remain committed to this effort, which we believe must be based on UNSC resolutions 242 and 338 and the concept of the exchange of land for peace, and a

process of direct negotiation among the parties. We have recently reiterated this commitment to Prime Minister Shamir, and are looking forward to moving onwards to this goal in close cooperation with our Israeli friends as soon as the Gulf crisis is behind us.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

December 26, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR SHIRLEY GREEN

FROM: WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

SUBJECT: Draft reply to Mr. Theodore R. Mann, Mr. Earl Raab, and Mr. Henry Rosovsky, Co-Chairmen, Nishma

Attached at Tab A is a modified State Department composed draft reply to a letter (Tab B) from the Co-Chairmen of Nishma. We suggest you incorporate the draft reply into a letter from your office. Bobbie Kilberg may wish to sign this letter.

Attachments

Tab A Draft response to Nishma co-chairmen
Tab B letter from Nishma co-chairmen

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

December 21, 1990

SIGNED

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS 

FROM: C. DAVID WELCH

SUBJECT: Letter to Mr. Theodore R. Mann, Mr. Earl Raab, and
Mr. Henry Rosovsky, Co-Chairs, Project Nishma

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum for Shirley Green, Special Assistant to the President for Presidential Messages and Correspondence, that forwards a revised State Department draft reply (Tab A) to a letter (Tab B) from the co-chairmen of Nishma.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to Shirley Green.

Attachments

Tab I	Memo to Shirley Green
Tab A	Draft response to Nishma co-chairman
Tab B	Letter from Nishma co-chairman

8:40 PM Sarah DeCamp

186088

PROJECT NISHMA

Let Us Listen

שמעו

CO-CHAIRS

Theodore R. Mann
Henry Rosovsky
Earl Raab

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Thomas Smerling

SPONSORING COMMITTEE

(In Formation)

Ruth J. Abram
Mimi Alperin
David Arnow
Jordan C. Band
Daniel Bell
Marver Bernstein
Theodore Bikel
Herschel Blumberg
Hyman Bookbinder
Rabbi Eugene B. Borowitz
Joel Breslau
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Alvin L. Gray
Blu Greenberg
George E. Gruen
David Guberman
Lois Gunther
Richard Gunther
Arnold Gurin
Leroy E. Hoffberger
Robert L. Israeloff
Ted Kanner
Ron Kaufman
Rabbi Wolfe Kelman

October 25, 1990

The Honorable
George Bush
President
Washington, D.C.

9023791

'90 NOV-07 4:41 PM

The Honorable
Yitzhak Shamir
Prime Minister
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear President Bush and Prime Minister Shamir:

Our reading of the attitudes of most American Jews leads us to express some pragmatic reactions to the present crisis, and to urge steps by both Israeli and American authorities to reduce tensions between the two allies.

First we wish to express our horror and sorrow at the recent cycle of violence and counter-violence in Jerusalem and beyond. We grieve for all the victims and their families. The violence is but one more reminder of the dangers Israelis face daily.

Saddam Hussein's constant threats against Israel are additional reminders. These threats, which have not been refuted by his current Arab adversaries, must be taken seriously, and they reinforce the need to repair the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Differences over two current issues have brought U.S. and Israel relations to their lowest point in years. Regrettably, both issues concern Jerusalem.

The October 12 U.N. condemnation of violence on the Temple Mount was clearly one-sided. In backing that resolution, the U.S. was undoubtedly influenced by the need to sustain its coalition in the Gulf.

That context cannot be ignored. The U.S. has committed itself to its most massive military initiative since the Vietnam War. If war breaks out in the Gulf, by all estimates the U.S. will suffer thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of casualties. To avoid war, or, in the event of hostilities, to assure victory with minimal casualties, a top U.S. priority is the maintenance of as broad an international coalition as possible. The American public understands this and believes that anything that threatens this coalition threatens American lives

Philip M. Klutznick
J. Livingston Kosberg
Goldie Kweller
Esther R. Landa
Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld
Jacqueline Levine
Sanford Levinson
Norma Levitt
Rabbi Eugene Lipman
Seymour Martin Lipset
Stanley Lowell
Herb Magidson
Peter L. Malkin
Newton N. Minow
Henry Morgenthau
Alfred Moses
Leo Nevas
Racquel Newman
William Novack
Judith Stern Peck
Michael Pelavin
Natalie Pelavin
Martin Peretz
Robert Perlman
David R. Pokross
Joel M. Reck
Bernard Reisman
Esther Leah Ritz
Menachem Z. Rosensaft
Gary S. Rubin
John Ruskay
Edward Sanders
Rabbi David Saperstein
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Rabbi Harold Schulweis
Rabbi Alexander M. Shapiro
Harold Shapiro
Linda Rae Sher
Jerome Shestack
Ira Silverman
Sanford Solender
Howard Squadron
Mary Ann Stein
Rob Stein
Saul I. Stern
Daniel Thursz
Peggy Tishman
Richard Volpert
Albert Vorspan
Michael Walzer
Lewis H. Weinstein
Leon Wieseltier
Dolores Wilkenfeld
George M. Zeltzer
Henry Zucker

and interests. Under these circumstances, the U.S. response -- avoiding a veto while seeking the mildest language achievable -- came as no surprise.

But these circumstances do not excuse the failure of U.S. representatives, with respect to the Oct. 12 U.N. resolution, to point out clearly to the American public the role of Palestinian mob actions in the Temple Mount incident, and to convey the significance of the desecration committed by stoning Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall. Nor do they excuse the American failure, with respect to the October 24 U.N. resolution deploring Israel's rejection of the U.N. investigatory mission, to explain the historical reasons for Israel's well-founded distrust of the U.N., whose policies have reflected a persistent pattern of hostility, bias and double-standards vis-a-vis Israel.

Yet, Israel unwisely elevates the status of the U.N. mission by refusing to receive it and by defining this issue as a test of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem. Quiet, low-level cooperation with the U.N. would not compromise Israel's position in Jerusalem and would help put the issue to rest. We do not doubt that the vast majority of American Jews would support such an approach, and would be relieved to see the Israeli government adopt a pragmatic stance. Absolute refusal to cooperate at any level with the U.N. mission will surely result in continued Security Council consideration of the Temple Mount incident, at a time when it is clearly in Israel's and America's interest that world attention remain focused on Iraq.

On another current point of tension -- regarding construction of new housing in East Jerusalem -- we deeply regret that the U.S. administration does not seem to recognize the critical distinctions between the status of the West Bank and Gaza on the one hand, and East Jerusalem on the other. We, along with most other American Jews with access to the White House and State Department, have urged that distinction upon U.S. administrations for 23 years, but despite our efforts that is not yet American policy. The administration's approach has helped perpetuate a climate of mistrust and misunderstanding on this issue.

Unfortunately, recent ill-timed and provocative pronouncements by Israeli ministers regarding building new housing in East Jerusalem have added fuel to the fire and cast a cloud over the commendable agreement recently concluded by Foreign Minister David Levy and Secretary of State James Baker, which freed up \$400 million in U.S. housing loan guarantees for re-settling Soviet Jews. The Baker-Levy agreement should be reaffirmed and implemented, and provocative declarations of plans for new construction beyond the Green Line should be eschewed.

Ultimately, Israeli security cannot be detached from Israel's special relationship with the U.S. In the past, U.S. public support for Israel has always rebounded from temporary

setbacks. But the world is changing rapidly, and the danger of serious erosion in U.S. support for Israel cannot be dismissed.

We urge that pragmatic solutions to problems be sought, that discussion of Jerusalem be deferred to a less explosive time, and that all parties work to lower the level of rhetoric. The current controversies troubling the U.S. and Israel must be laid to rest so the special relationship can get back on track.

Sincerely,

Co-Chairs

Theodore R. Mann
Earl Raab
Henry Rosovsky

Executive Board Members

E. Robert Goodkind
Richard Gunther
Jacqueline Levine
Michael Pelavin
Esther Leah Ritz
John Ruskay
Edward Sanders