

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

00 074

DATE RECEIVED: DECEMBER 26, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RIGHT REVEREND HERBERT W. CHILSTROM

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HIS TRIP TO ISRAEL AND THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF THE WEST BANK AND
RELAYS ALL THE REQUESTS FOR PEACE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST HE RECEIVED

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
KATHY JEA VONS		ORG	90/12/26		C91/01/03
99 DOS	REFERRAL NOTE:		A 91/01/08	LJ	A 91/01/09
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

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 9100233

Date January 14, 1991

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

Reference:

To: President Bush

From: The Rt. Reverend Herbert Chilstrom

Date: December 21, 1990

Subject: Policy in the Gulf

WH Referral Dated: January 4, 1991
NSCS ID# (if any): 200581

 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.
- X 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:

for Linda Sullivan
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

RECEIVED

91 JAN 14 P 5: 01



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 9, 1991

The Right Reverend Herbert W. Chilstrom
Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631

Dear Reverend Chilstrom:

I have been asked to thank you for your letter of December 21, 1990, addressed to President Bush concerning U.S. policy in the Gulf.

At a time when important decisions are being made, all expressions of opinion are welcome. The knowledge that you have gained from your recent visit to the Middle East, and discussions with Patriarch Sabbah and other leaders, make your views particularly valuable.

We are grateful to have the benefit of your thoughts. Your assurance that the President has your prayers and those of the members of your Church is especially appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Douglas R. Keene", written in a cursive style.

Douglas R. Keene
Director,
Arabian Peninsula Affairs

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

REFERRAL

9100233

'91 JAN-04 6:05 PM

JANUARY 4, 1991

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 200581
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED DECEMBER 21, 1990
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH
FROM: RIGHT REVEREND HERBERT W. CHILSTROM
BISHOP
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA
8765 WEST HIGGINS ROAD
CHICAGO IL 60631

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HIS TRIP TO ISRAEL AND THE
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF THE WEST BANK AND
RELAYS ALL THE REQUESTS FOR PEACE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST HE RECEIVED

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



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631 • 312-380-2700
Cable: ELCA IL • Telex: 4900009321ELC • Fax: 1-312-380-1465

Office of
the Bishop

December 21, 1990

Kathy Garrison
President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Bush:

Late last evening I returned from a trip to Israel and the occupied territories of the West Bank. I carry with me a message from one who does not take sides in the conflict. He is one who, like all the religious leaders we met in the Christian, Jewish and Islamic communities, wants peace and justice for Israeli as well as Arab. He is Michel Sabbah, patriarch of the Latin Church in Jerusalem.

When asked what message might be carried to you he replied: "Tell President Bush, 'You are the only one left in the world who can make justice in the Mid-East. We believe that you are a man of God. But the people here doubt that you have the freedom to do what is right, even though you are president of the United States.'"

Patriarch Sabbah went on to say that if there is conflict in the Gulf, "the United States will win the battle, but will lose the war. The Mid-East," he said, "will remain a volcano forever, unless the whole situation is resolved. The first problem to be solved is here in the Holy Land, not the Gulf."

And then the wisest words of all, "We usually make peace after war; we must now make peace before war."

I believe you to be an honorable man, committed to peace. But I am equally convinced that unless you bend every effort to avoid war, including allowing much more time for sanctions to take effect, you will be responsible for leading the United States and the world into one of the darkest chapters of human history.

In 1801 your predecessor Thomas Jefferson was urged to move militarily to take New Orleans. But, unlike his advisors, he knew it was a battle that would not be over in a fortnight. To take military action, said Jefferson, would mean "seven years war, the loss of one hundred thousand lives, hundreds of millions of additional debt...and that

demoralization which war superinduces on the human mind."

We honor Jefferson for that kind of wisdom. You too will be honored by future generations if you exercise that same kind of patient statesmanship.

May God grace you with wisdom in these critical days. You can be assured of my prayers and of the prayers of all of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Herbert W. Chilstrom", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Herbert W. Chilstrom

HWC/tim