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Record Group:	Bush Presidential Records
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WHORM Category Code: CO074
WHORM Category Name: Israel

Document Number: 309556 to 323581 **Entire Category Processed**
Alpha File Name:

ID# 309556

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 074

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 20, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ROBERT A. SEIPLE

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A
14-YEAR-OLD PALESTINIAN BOY WHO WAS
TORTURED BY 16 ISRAELI SOLDIERS

✓ PL 3 EAV

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
KATHY JEAVONS		ORG	92/02/20		C 92/04/05 C 92/03/09 RL
CO KELL	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	A	92/03/09		C 92/03/10
99 DOS	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	R	92/03/18		A 92/03/31 2LD
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4800 4900 _____

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.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9205580Date April 2, 1992

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush
From: Mr. Robert A. Seiple
Date: February 14, 1992
Subj: Reports on an incident involving a 14-year old
Palestinian boy who was tortured by 16 Israeli

WH Referral Dated: March 13, 1992
NSCS ID# (if any): 309556

 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 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:

W. F. Sittmann
Director
Secretariat Staff

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

REFERRAL

MARCH 13, 1992

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

9205580

'92 MAR-13 10:18 PM

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 309556

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 14, 1992

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. ROBERT A. SEIPLE
PRESIDENT
WORLD VISION
919 WEST HUNTINGTON DRIVE
MONROVIA CA 91016

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A
14-YEAR-OLD PALESTINIAN BOY WHO WAS
TORTURED BY 16 ISRAELI SOLDIERS

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



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 31, 1992

Mr. Robert A. Seiple
President
World Vision
919 West Huntington Drive
Monrovia, California 91016

Dear Mr. Seiple:

I am responding to your letter of February 14 to President Bush regarding the shooting of a 14-year-old Palestinian youth by Israeli security forces.

The United States continues to be concerned by certain Israeli practices in the occupied territories, including the excessive use of force, deportations, demolitions, administrative detention, punitive curfews and school closings, and mistreatment of Palestinians during arrest and interrogation.

We are also concerned that extremist Palestinian groups have resorted to deadly violence since the Madrid Conference. The goal of these groups is to obstruct the peace process. Israel has responded resolutely to these attacks. The Palestinian extremists who are perpetrating the violence against Israelis are seeking harsh retribution that they hope will undercut popular Palestinian support for a peaceful, negotiated solution.

Israel has the right and the obligation to maintain security and order in the occupied territories. At the same time, we believe that Israeli responses to violence must be measured and appropriate. We are concerned that the hardships caused to innocent Palestinians by such measures as excessive curfews, destruction of property, and punitive land seizures are unfair and not in keeping with the atmosphere we believe is appropriate for the conduct of the negotiations. We are also concerned about acts of destruction by Israeli settler groups.

Israeli authorities state that they carefully investigate all allegations of misconduct by Israeli security forces, and, where substantiated, prosecute those responsible. We cannot specifically identify the incident regarding the 14-year-old boy you describe. It appears similar to an incident reported

to have taken place in Bethlehem at Manger Square, where a boy was reported to have been shot in the face after having surrendered to security forces. We understand that this incident is under investigation. If you are referring to a different incident, we would appreciate more specific information if it is available.

For your further information, I am enclosing a copy of the 1991 country report on human rights practices for the occupied territories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W R B', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William R. Brew
Director
Office of Israel and
Arab-Israeli Affairs

8
Kathy Jeavons

WORLD VISION

309536
Office of the President

February 14, 1992

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

9205580
'92 MAR-13 10:18 PM

Dear Mr. President:

Since last fall I have been sitting on an incident that cries for action, an incident within a context that screams even louder for wisdom and discernment. At the very least, I need to share it with others, and invite your thoughtful response.

One of our sponsored children, a 14-year-old Palestinian boy living on the West Bank, was caught by 16 Israeli soldiers as he was writing graffiti on a wall. The soldiers placed him up against the wall, and one shot him four times in the eye. As he lay on the ground, still alive, he was savagely beaten for almost an hour. During that time he was forced to stick his finger into his wound and wipe out the graffiti with his own blood. He was then bound and dragged through the village streets; finally thrown into the back of a jeep and rudely dumped at a local hospital. Miraculously, he lived. Tragically, this incident is not atypical. The entire drama was witnessed by an American. It has since been recorded in Western journals.

What do we do? How and when does one respond? How could this happen? Why is it still happening? For over hundreds of years, the issues surrounding the Palestinians and Jews have produced more questions and pain than solutions and peace. Part of the fault lies with those extreme Palestinians who have never been able to accept the Israelis' need for a homeland with secure borders. Then there are those extreme Israelis, still defining the parameters of forceful response, who have consistently found and formed legal rationales for these atrocities. Noam Chomsky calls these folks, "experts in legitimization."

Unfortunately, that title also defines many Christians in America. With us it's not legal but theological. The eschatological spotlight is on the Jew; no one else matters. "God's people" are to be blessed and be a blessing. Our uncritical eye, with respect to that part of the world, aids and abets an environment within which kids can be brutalized.

February 14, 1992
Page Two

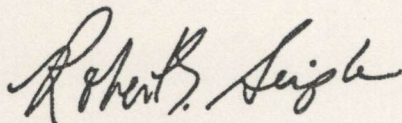
For my own faith in humankind, however, I need to feel that it is much easier to decry this incident as morally wrong than to legitimize it as either legally or theologically permissible. As I see action and response, I've got to believe that both sides are suffering. Persecution and paranoia are exhibited by both. The line between oppressor and oppressed is very blurred. The heart and soul of both peoples are being eroded. Amazingly, perhaps, these people have much more in common with one another than many others who have found ways to peacefully coexist.

For peace to come to this region of the world, liberation has to be mutual. The destinies of the Palestinians and the Israelis are inextricably linked. Mutual solidarity needs to be promoted and affirmed.

Western Christians have a role. It's not silence. Silence will only perpetuate a moral blank cheque for one party, denying it for the other. We need to be vocally committed to the security of Israel, making sure that this security includes the liberation of Palestine. We need, today, to model post-conflict potentialities, concentrating our energies on positive examples of community living rather than perpetuating the negative divisiveness of ethnic hatred. We need to demand that God's changeless core of moral conduct be equally applied to both peoples. We need to reaffirm the love of "neighbor" which, in the context of the Good Samaritan Parable, includes both Jew and Palestinian. Most importantly, we need to affirm Christ's Kingdom, a barrier-free Kingdom "where there is neither Jew nor Greek."

This is broad brush, and we need to get to specifics. Certainly our sponsored child is a "specific" who demands our attention. I'm confident he has Christ's; indeed, the One who wept over Jerusalem must still be crying. What more can we do? I'd love to hear your thoughts.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Seiple". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent and the last name "Seiple" following in a similar style.

Robert A. Seiple