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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

C0120

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 16, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JEROME M. SEGAL

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON A
FREEZE ON SETTLEMENT IN THE WEST BANK AND
GAZA AS A PRECONDITION FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF
HOUSING GUARANTEES

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JOHN SUNUNU		ORG	90/03/16	JHS	A 90/03/19
REFERRAL NOTE: Incoming not attached					
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REMARKS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

CS 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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 19, 1990

Dear Mr. Segal,

Thank you for your note and thank you for sharing with me your letter to Members of Congress.

Your support is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John H. Sununu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent.

John H. Sununu
Chief of Staff

Mr. Jerome M. Segal
President
Jewish Peace Lobby
Suite 141
4431 Lehigh Road
College Park, Maryland 20740

JEWISH PEACE LOBBY

123488
C0120

March 12, 1990

Governor John H. Sununu
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

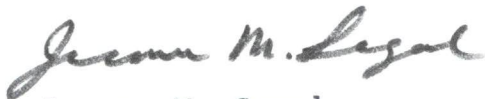
CS
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Dear Governor Sununu,

The Jewish Peace Lobby supports the Administration position that the Israeli government should institute a freeze on settlement activity in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a precondition for higher level of Housing Guarantees.

I thought you might be interested in the attached letter which was sent to key members of Congress.

Sincerely,



Jerome M. Segal
President

JEWISH PEACE LOBBY

The Honorable David R. Obey
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 1990

Dear Mr. Obey:

You will soon be making decisions with respect to the Israeli request for an additional \$400 million in Housing Guarantees.

The Jewish Peace Lobby urges that Israel not receive the higher level of loan guarantees unless it adopts a freeze on settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza and policies adequate to keep the number of settler families residing in the territories from rising.

Last May, in his speech to AIPAC, Secretary of State Baker called on Israel to halt settlement activity. At that time, we supported his call. With the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and the perception as well as the real possibility that this will result in a significant expansion of the settler population, we feel it is appropriate to insist that the Israeli government respond to the Secretary's call if it is to receive yet higher levels of assistance.

Several points need to be made in this context:

1. Under current Israeli policies which promote West Bank settlement through direct government investment, subsidies and tax breaks, no one really knows how the influx of Soviet Jews will affect the total number of settlers in the territories. The fact that relatively few settled there in the past, tells us little about what will happen when the influx into Israel reaches major proportions. As the housing market tightens within Israel, housing prices will rise and the drawing power of the subsidies will increase.
2. Whatever the reality, there is a politically vital issue of perception. Both the Arab states and the Palestinian population are deeply alarmed about the prospect of large numbers of settlers. This alarm emerges from an accurate perception that many in Israel, including Prime Minister Shamir, would like to put large numbers of Israelis in the territories as a way of keeping the territories permanently under Israeli control.

These Arab and Palestinian fears need to be addressed. King Hussein takes the issue very seriously, as it dovetails with rising affirmations from Israeli political figures that "Jordan is the Palestinian state." Responding to these fears, Jordan is expanding its military cooperation with Iraq. Failure to address the settlement issue decisively will result in an acceleration of this trend.

On the Palestinian side there is a sense of desperation. Recent leaflets have called for stepped up attacks on Israeli settlers in order to discourage new settlers. If this occurs, it will wash away prospects for peace.

3. Everyone knows that merely prohibiting the use of American money for settlements in the territories is meaningless. Not only does this allow for the use of other monies, but it doesn't address the issue of tax and interest incentive policies currently used to encourage settlement.

4. The issue is not just one of Soviet Jews. The political implications are the same regardless of which Israelis settle in the territories. Israeli policies and the economic dynamics generated by a large inflow of Soviet Jews will make the territories economically attractive places to reside for all Israelis.

5. The issue of "freedom of choice" is totally misplaced. There is no right to "choose to settle" in lands that do not belong to Israel, and Israel is, according to Resolution 242, committed to withdrawal. Moreover, given Israeli efforts to limit the freedom of Soviet Jews to choose to settle in the United States rather than Israel, it is true "chutzpah" to invoke this consideration. Finally, Israeli subsidy policies are a way of biasing the choice that Soviet immigrants make; free choice means no subsidies.

6. Finally, a word should be said about the Soviet Jews themselves. They have become pawns. First, they are effectively blocked from coming to the United States as they would prefer, and now through government tax and subsidy policies they are nudged towards the territories. The result being that the Soviet Union, reacting to Arab alarm, suspended the agreement on direct flights to Israel. So now fewer Soviet Jews are getting out, even while the specter of anti-semitism rises.

The bottom line is this: the issue is not the use of American money, it is the settlement activity itself. And the most important point is this: Israel needs peace. The Palestinians need peace. A freeze on settlement activity will promote resolution of the conflict.

All the players will be watching how the Congress deals with this one. Secretary Baker was right in his AIPAC speech when he called for the halt to settlement activity. Now the heat is on. If something real and decisive is done, it will contribute towards a negotiated outcome. If there is only a meaningless charade, it will be seen as such and will only have negative consequences.

Congressman Obey, you are widely respected for your bluntness and honesty. I hope you are able to take a stand on this issue.

Sincerely,


Jerome M. Segal
President