

Original FOIA Number: 2003-0262-F

2nd FOIA Number:

3rd FOIA Number:

4th FOIA Number:

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Record Group:	Bush Presidential Records
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WHORM Category Code:	CO120
WHORM Category Name:	Palestine, Islamic Republic of

Document Number:	152459
Alpha File Name:	

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

C0020

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 25, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. MAYER MITCHELL

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SUSPEND
U.S. DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
BOBBIE KILBERG		ORG	90/06/25		
REFERRAL NOTE:					
99 Dept. of State		R	90/06/25		
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4800 4400

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9014587

Date July 3, 1990

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush
From: Mr. Mayer Mitchell
Date: June 28, 1990
Subject: Supports the President's decision to Suspend
U.S. Dialogue with the PLO

WH Referral Dated: June 22, 1990
NSCS ID# (if any): 152459

_____ 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.
_____XX 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:

UNCLASSIFIED

for for *for* M. Ant
Director
Secretariat Staff



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

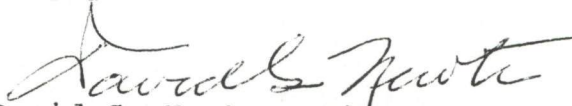
July 2, 1990

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of June 22 on behalf of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee supporting the suspension of the U.S./PLO dialogue. The President has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As you mention, on June 20, the President announced that we are suspending our dialogue with the PLO. I am enclosing the statement he made at that time explaining this decision more fully.

Sincerely yours,


David G. Newton, Director,
Office of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria,
and Palestinian Affairs

Enclosure: President's Statement of June 20

Mayer Mitchell, President,
American Israel Public Affairs Committee,
440 First Street, NW, suite 600,
Washington, DC.

Presidential Statement

June 20, 1990

Based on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, I have decided to suspend the dialogue between the United States and the PLO, pending a satisfactory response from the PLO of steps it is taking to resolve problems associated with recent acts of terrorism, in particular the May 30 terrorist attack on Israel by the Palestine Liberation Front, a constituent group of the PLO.

By way of background, on December 14, 1988 Yasir Arafat, speaking on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee, recognized Israel's right to exist, accepted UNSC resolutions 242 and 338, and renounced terrorism. Subsequently the United States announced that because the PLO had met our longstanding conditions for dialogue, we would begin a substantive dialogue with the PLO.

At the time we applauded Chairman Arafat for taking these essential steps, and we have conducted such a dialogue with the PLO through our Embassy in Tunis. Over the past 18 months, representatives of the United States and the PLO regularly exchanged views about the political and security situation in the region. On balance, we believe these exchanges contributed to progress in the peace process.

On May 30, 1990, the Palestine Liberation Front attempted a seaborne terrorist infiltration into Israel. Palestine Liberation Front leader Abu Abbas represents the PLF on the PLO's Executive Committee. The size of the force and the geographical target area strongly indicated that civilians would have been the target.

That day we issued a statement deploring this attempted terrorist attack. On May 31, we raised this incident with the PLO in Tunis. We told the PLO that it could not avoid responsibility for an attempted terrorist action by one of its constituent groups and needed to take steps to deal with this matter, by condemning the operation, disassociating itself from it, and by beginning to take steps to discipline Abu Abbas. We have given the PLO ample time to deal with this issue.

To date, the PLO has not provided a credible accounting of this incident or undertaken the actions outlined above. The United States takes note of the fact that the PLO has disassociated itself from this attack and issued a statement condemning attacks against civilians in principle. But as we have previously indicated this is not sufficient.

The U.S.-PLO dialogue has demonstrated that it can advance the Arab-Israeli peace process. At the same time, the dialogue is based on the assumption that the PLO is willing to abide by the conditions it accepted in December 1988, including renunciation of terrorism. At any time that the PLO is prepared to take the necessary steps, we are prepared to promptly resume the dialogue.

In the meantime, we would hope and expect that the peace process would proceed as intended and without delay. We remain committed to the pursuit of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to a just and lasting peace. As we have often stated, it is our view that such a peace must be based on UNSC resolution 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace, and provide for Israel's security and Palestinian political rights. We believe that Palestinian participation is vital to any successful process and that there are real opportunities for Palestinians in this process. We strongly hope that Israelis, Palestinians, and the Arab states will recognize these opportunities and take the necessary steps to create an environment in which a viable peace process can thrive. We denounce violence in the area and call upon all parties to eschew violence and terror and opt instead for dialogue and negotiation. We are prepared to continue working with the parties toward this end.

S/S-9014587

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

REFERRAL

JUNE 28, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 152459

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUNE 22, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. MAYER MITCHELL
PRESIDENT
AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE
440 FIRST STREET, NW.
SUITE 600
WASHINGTON DC 20001

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SUSPEND
U.S. DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO

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



152459

AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

440 FIRST STREET, N.W., SUITE 600 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • (202) 639-5200 FAX (202) 639-4697

Mayer Mitchell
President

June 22, 1990

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I join the many Americans, including the leaders of the American Jewish community, who support your decision to suspend our dialogue with the PLO.

It is regretful that the PLO has again missed an opportunity to demonstrate seriousness about peace through its actions, not merely statements. The failure by Arafat to take swift and decisive action against terrorists within his own senior ranks is disappointing, a move not down a moderate road to peace, but down a path supporting terrorism, which it was hoped he had abandoned.

AIPAC shares your views that the United States must adhere to its principled policy against terrorism. Your action puts Arafat on notice that the United States will not deal with terrorists and that they have no place at the peace table. It makes a clear statement that the United States is determined to move the process forward with credible, trustworthy partners. We urge you to make sure the PLO takes unequivocal and definitive actions, including expelling Abul Abbas, and other steps necessary to convince those interested in peace that he does not support violence before the dialogue resumes.

Mr. President, our vision should be one of peace and our minds should remain focused on how to bring that peace to the people of the region. Peacemaking is indeed a process. As witnesses of the peace treaty with Egypt, we have learned first hand the benefits that can be reaped from reconciliation.

The President
June 22, 1990
Page Two

The new Government of Israel's guidelines state their desire for peace with their neighbors. The United States and Israel have benefited over the years from a close relationship. The successful pursuit of peace is possible only through maintaining this strong alliance. As Americans, we are grateful that the United States, under your leadership, is engaged in nurturing peace between the State of Israel, the Arab states and the Palestinians.

On a personal note, I look forward to working with you and members of the Executive Branch during my term as President of AIPAC to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel. I have long been a personal admirer and supporter of yours. I will always remember the eloquent expression of your feelings following your visit to Auschwitz at the home of my good friends, Sage and Elsie Lyons, in Mobile during the 1988 campaign.

I hope the opportunity presents itself in the near future to personally discuss both AIPAC and the U.S.-Israel relationship with you.

Sincerely,


Mayer Mitchell

MM:cs