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September 9, 1992

Mr. C. Boyden Gray
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: FOIA Request: Loan Guarantees for Israel

Dear Mr. Gray:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as amended (5 U.S.C. Section 552) in conjunction with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. Section 552a).

I write to obtain a copy of all correspondence, reports, documents, evidence, memoranda, drafts, computer and other electronic data and related information pertaining to the determination by the United States to grant Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees. A newspaper article relating to that determination is attached.

The FOIA provides that if only portions of a file are exempted from release, the remainder must be released. Therefore, I request that I be provided with all non-exempt portions which are reasonably segregable. I of course reserve my right to appeal the withholding or deletion of any information.

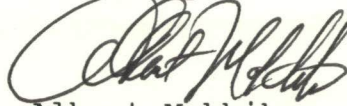
Finally, I make this request on behalf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). Since any information released will be made public and reported on in our publication, ADC Times, I ask that this any fees related to this be waived.

Mr. C. Boyden Gray
September 9, 1992
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Should you have any questions about this request,
please contact me directly.

As provided in the Freedom of Information Act, I will
expect to receive a reply within ten working days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Albert Mokhiber", written in a cursive style.

Albert Mokhiber
President

With Rabin Beside Him, Bush Lauds Israelis

By ANDREW ROSENTHAL
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 — After several years of cool relations between the Bush Administration and Israel, President Bush hailed Israel today as a "strategic partner" of the United States, as he and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced their agreement on a much-delayed package of \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

With Mr. Rabin beside him outside the Bush family home in Kennebunkport, Me., the President said they had agreed on the "basic principles" of the loan program, which would cover five years.

He asked for swift action on the guarantees, which he had held up for more than a year because Mr. Rabin's predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, had refused to impose a freeze on construction of settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Then, returning to Washington, Mr. Bush told Congressional leaders from both parties that he would send them loan-guarantee legislation within two days. Prospects for passage appeared good.

Senator Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, Democrat of Vermont and chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee on Foreign Operations, expressed delight at the announcement, particularly since the loan guarantees would be linked to Israeli economic reforms and limits on further settlements. "I can get it through the Senate," he said, adding that his panel would take up foreign aid shortly after Labor Day.

Congressional officials predicted that the loan guarantees would have a somewhat more difficult time in the House, but that Democratic leaders there would push hard for approval.

It is not known if the legislation would require renewal every year or would be in the form of once-only approval of the full amount over the five-

year period.

As Mr. Bush and Mr. Rabin tried to inject a new tone of warmth and friendship into a relationship that had become severely strained, the Israeli called the President's decision "a significant step."

"We shall also carry as much as possible of the burden, of the financial burden, of the guarantees so as to lessen any cost to the American taxpayer," the Prime Minister said. "But your readiness to extend it following our discussions means a lot to me and to Israel, and again, thank you very much."

Israel wants to use the loan guarantees to help resettle immigrants from the former Soviet lands.

The United States will not be lending money to Israel, but guaranteeing that Israel will repay money it borrows. This will allow the Israelis to borrow from commercial banks at favorable terms.

The appearance by the two leaders this morning ended a 24-hour stay at the President's home, which was intended to signal an end to the tensions in the American-Israeli relationship, as well as present a warm, personal relationship in contrast to the obvious tension between Mr. Bush and Mr. Shamir.

"It was a true pleasure for Barbara and me to spend this time with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Rabin," Mr. Bush said. He added, "We could not be happier than to have them visit us here at Kennebunkport, this very special place for me and my family."

He added, "The meetings were also significant for the tone of the discussions. Our time together can best be described as a consultation between close friends and strategic partners."

Although Mr. Bush's advisers were hoping that the accord on loan guarantees and the improvement in relations would calm election-year criticism of

Mr. Bush's policies on Israel, the President said he had no political motivation in reaching his decision.

"We're not talking here about domestic United States politics, nor are we talking about domestic Israeli politics," he said. "We're talking about principle, about doing what is right."

But Mr. Bush acknowledged that it "isn't easy" to separate his actions from the campaign and added, "I'm going to finesse that."

Offering the kind of reassuring language that American Jewish groups have complained was missing from his comments on Israel over the last three and a half years, the President spoke several times of Israel's "strategic importance" to the United States, signaled that he was ready to move forward with military cooperation between the two countries, and reaffirmed Washington's longstanding policy of assuring that Israel has a "qualitative military edge" over its Arab neighbors.

Before agreeing to support the loan guarantees, American officials said Mr. Bush had sought a personal explanation from Mr. Rabin about the distinction he was drawing between construction of "political" settlements and those his Government considers "security" settlements. The leaders gave no elaboration on this distinction.

Asked today if he agreed with Mr. Rabin's definitions, Mr. Bush said: "We understand the position and all I will say is that I salute this change. We salute what the Prime Minister is trying to do. We understand his position. He understands our position. And obviously, we would not be going forward with this loan guarantee if we did not salute the change."