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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

FG001-06

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 06, 1989

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. MILTON S. SHAPIRO

SUBJECT: REGARDING HIS RETURN FROM A TRIP TO ISRAEL
SHARING CERTAIN VIEWS WITH THE PRESIDENT,
WHICH HE FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
SARAH DECAMP		ORG	89/04/06		C89/11/20
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COMMENTS: FAX LETTER -- AMERICAN ZIONIST MAGAZINE
MENTIONED IN LETTER, IS NOT ENCLOSED

No reply necessary

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
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	*
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24027

Sarah Delany

Zionist Organization of America

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Office of the President

April 4, 1989

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I have just returned from Israel where I joined 1,500 Jews from throughout the world who gathered together to express views regarding important issues and to demonstrate our confidence in the leaders and people of the State of Israel.

Before I went to Israel, I issued a statement which indicated that the Zionist Organization of America did not believe it should intrude in the democratic process of the State of Israel, a nation whose present government was elected by almost seventy-eight percent (78%) of those qualified to vote. This was an expression of democratic action, which is not only unprecedented in the Middle East, but perhaps throughout the world.

President Bush, permit me to share with you certain views which I feel strongly about. While I and others may have individual thoughts and opinions about the peace process, it would be presumptuous of me and my organization to believe that we are more expert, or that we are more caring than the people of Israel themselves. This is why we strongly disagree with those who believe that they should be publicly critical of Israel or in fact, engage in private acts of diplomacy with nations and leaders or PLO terrorists.

President Bush, we believe that the onus of responsibility for the continuing problems which the Middle East, especially the lack of peace between Israel and the Arab states, has been unfairly directed to Israel. It is not historically or morally right to equate Israel with the PLO as being equally responsible for the problems or the need to solve the problem. Israel is at war with no Arab state. Israel has no covenant calling for the elimination of any Arab state. In our view, Mr. Arafat is not

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the issue, the issue is PLO policy as written in its covenant. The PLO covenant continues to be the bible for terrorism and violence. The PLO covenant contains twenty-one calls for Israel's elimination; it is a blueprint for Israel's destruction.

This is why, Mr. President, we deeply regret the decision by President Ronald Reagan, followed by your own action based on the view that Arafat may have passed the test of moderation. I respectfully believe that to single out Arafat as the representative of the Palestinian people may have discouraged potential moderates to come forward. This international terrorist has been given the mantle of respectability which he does not deserve. Not a single statement made by Arafat alters the provisions in the covenant which can only be changed by the PLO executive and not by the words spoken by one individual, even if he is Yasser Arafat.

President Bush, press reports of some aspects of your meeting with President Hosni Mubarak are disquieting. While you indicate that you "share goals" with Egypt, we did not hear any vigorous admonition to Mr. Mubarak regarding his reluctance to put into action the spirit of Camp David. He has failed to demonstrate friendship towards Israel in the most minimal manner. A change in this attitude would be a responsible response to the "new atmosphere which must be created" that you spoke about when you met President Mubarak. In fact, Mr. Mubarak's refusal to meet with Mr. Shamir is one more indication of a negative attitude which I believe you could influence so it becomes more positive.

Israel's decision to make peace with Egypt included extraordinary concessions to which Egypt has failed to respond in kind. Further, I am very concerned that some of your references failed to present a balanced view, thereby placing Israel in an unfair and defensive position which may serve to preempt Israel's ability to take certain initiatives and places an unnecessary burden on Israel.

Mr. President, you will soon meet with King Hussein of Jordan. May I respectfully suggest that the United States should insist that King Hussein must return to the peace process. Jordan consists of seventy-seven percent (77%) of the land originally designated as a Jewish homeland and mandated Palestine. About seventy-five percent (75%) of Jordan's population are Palestinian Arabs. There is no need for a second Palestinian state, and we applaud the position you have taken in this respect. The fact is, Jordan is the Palestinian state. If the world acknowledges this, the problem can and should be solved. And those who care for peace should demand it.

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President Bush, the relationship between the United States and Israel is based on an historic record of shared values between two democracies working together with mutual respect and interest. We know that you, Mr. President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, and the other members of your Administration fully understand this and that there is every desire for this relationship to remain strong. I am proud to represent an organization which has honored you in the past, and which you have honored by your presence at our national meetings. We know of your deep friendship with the Jewish people and your keen affinity to the State of Israel.

When the representatives of world Jewry assembled before the Western Wall as we concluded our deliberations on March 22, 1989, we joined together in a declaration of solidarity. We concluded by stating that we must join together "in fulfillment of the Zionist dream and responsive to the prophetic vision 'may peace reign in your walls -- and within your gates, harmony'".

It is in this spirit that we in the ZOA are dedicated, as you and your Administration are equally dedicated. We respect and admire the important direction in which your Administration is moving in order to secure a better nation and a better world for all.

In view of our past and friendly relationship, I felt compelled and comfortable in sharing my thoughts with you at this time. When ZOA leaders met in Washington on March 22 and 23, 1989, they had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Richard Haass of the National Security Council and Mr. Aaron D. Miller of the State Department. We are grateful for the opportunity to have shared our views and we are looking forward to the time when we will be given the chance to have similar discussions with you, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, in the near future.

not encl I am pleased to enclose the latest issue of the American Zionist Magazine which indicates our high regard for you and our deep appreciation for the important relationship we have enjoyed with you through the years.

With all good wishes.

Cordially yours,

Milton S. Shapiro
Milton S. Shapiro

cc: The Hon. Daniel Quayle, Vice President of the
United States of America
Hon. James A. Baker, III, Secretary of State
Hon. Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security

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PLEASE FORWARD TO PRESIDENT BUSH

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: APRIL 4, 1989

TO: PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

FAX : (202) 456-2461

FROM: MILTON S. SHAPIRO
PRESIDENT

NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

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