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FOIA MARKER

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Record Group:	Bush Presidential Records
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WHORM Category Name:	White House Office

Document Number:	174367
Alpha File Name:	

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 13, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. YOUSEF SALEM

SUBJECT: ASKS THE PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER APPOINTING AN
ARAB AMERICAN AS A LIAISON TO THE WHITE HOUSE
SIMILAR TO THE JEWISH LIAISON OFFICE HERE

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
KATHY JEAUVONS		ORG	90/09/13		C 90/11/26
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS: WRITER IS CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC RELATIONS,
UNITED MUSLIMS OF AMERICA

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:F INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4900 4400

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.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Salem:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President expressing your concerns about Arab-American relations and your hope for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis.

President Bush devoted great personal effort to finding a diplomatic and peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. To that end, he instructed the Secretary of State to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Switzerland on January 9 to discuss all aspects of the Gulf crisis within the mandate of the UN resolutions. The Iraqi government made clear in that meeting and in Saddam Hussein's meeting with the UN Secretary General, however, that Iraq was unwilling to consider peacefully withdrawing from Kuwait, abiding by UN Security Council resolutions and permitting the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government.

Saddam Hussein's aggression is a challenge to the rest of the international community. The majority of Arab and Muslim nations have called for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, and many of them have joined the international coalition to bring about this withdrawal. Working closely with these Arab and Muslim nations and others, we hope to reverse Hussein's aggression and thereby help define the world that lies beyond the Cold War as a place where civilized rules of conduct apply.

As Presidents Bush and Gorbachev stated jointly in Helsinki: "No peaceful international order is possible if larger states can devour their smaller neighbors." Likewise, if an aggressive state is allowed to sit astride the economic lifeline of the industrial world, everyone will suffer profound setbacks to economic growth.

Iraq's aggression is also a regional challenge and must be reversed to preserve regional peace and security. The Middle East is an area of unresolved conflicts, sectarian and social strife, and economic disparities. President Bush knows well that a peaceful solution to these problems is also necessary to preserve the security of our friends.

Mr. Yousef Salem
1667 Langport Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

I hope this information on the President's policies and perspective is helpful. I should add, for your information, that the White House staff serves as the President's liaison to the widest range of interest groups. President Bush has met twice with Arab American groups since the Gulf crisis began.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Allen L. Keiswetter", written in a cursive style.

Allen L. Keiswetter
Director,
Office of Regional Affairs
Bureau of Near Eastern and
South Asian Affairs

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9025214

Date January 18, 1991

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

REFERENCE:

To: The President
From: Yousef Salem
Date: August 12, 1990
Subject: Arab - American relations and the Gulf crisis

WH Referral Dated: 11/30/90
NSCS ID# (if any): 174367

☐ 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.
☒ 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:

Katherine M. McGowan
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

9025214

'90 NOV-30 3:15 PM

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

REFERRAL

NOVEMBER 30, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 174367

MEDIA: FAX DATED AUGUST 12, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. YOUSEF SALEM
1667 LANGPORT DRIVE
SUNNYVALE CA 94087

SUBJECT: ASKS THE PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER APPOINTING AN
ARAB AMERICAN AS A LIAISON TO THE WHITE HOUSE
SIMILAR TO THE JEWISH LIAISON OFFICE HERE

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

174367

K. Seavon's
President George Bush
White House
Washington, DC

Yousef Salem
1667 Langport Dr.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
August 12, 1990
(408) 736-3555

Dear Mr. President,

This evening you stated in your address to Congress that Iraq will fail if we engaged in war. Did we not have a far superior air force, naval force and infantry strength when we warred with Viet Nam for ten years and ultimately had to withdraw in humiliating defeat, licking our wounds?

And, when we shelled Beirut and landed our Marines in Lebanon did we not have to withdraw, again in humiliating defeat, again licking our wounds? Does Lebanon have an air force? A navy? a massive infantry? Submarines? Bombers? Aircraft carriers? F-115e's, F111's, B-1's? A massive tank or armored divisions? No? Isn't it a fact that ONE man defeated us in Lebanon when he drove a dynamite-filled car into our Marine barracks killing over 250 of our young men?

You mentioned that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein will not be allowed to control the price of oil in his very own country. Shouldn't he also be able to claim that you will not be able to control the price of U.S. grain? No? Then doesn't it seem foolish for us to make such rash threats?

You also mentioned the control (and hopefully the complete removal) of chemical and nuclear weapons in the region. Might I assume that as President of the world's greatest nation you will also demand the same of Israel, that led the development of nuclear and chemical weapons in the region ... funded by our government ... excuse me, by the American taxpayers? Isn't their non-conventional weapons build-up, along with our financing their development of the Jericho and Arrow missiles to deliver them upon any Arab or Islamic country at whim, the primary reason why Iraq also is building up it's non-conventional weapons? After all, Israel did bomb Iraq and Tunis in violation of international law and the U.N. Charter.

Can you please explain to me, Mr. President, why the US did not accept President Hussein's offer to destroy all of his non-conventional weapons if Israel did the same? Did this not in fact occur on April 13, 1990 when President Hussein invited several US Senators to meet with him in Mosul, Iraq?

Have you ever considered appointing an Arab American as a liaison to the White House, to advise you on Arab affairs in the same manner that the Jewish liaison advises the White

House? And, a Muslim liaison as well?

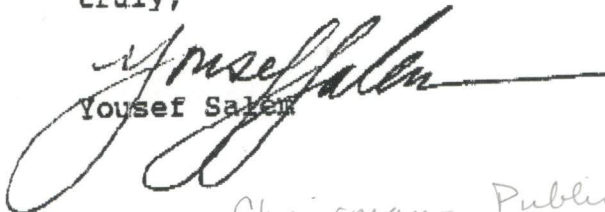
Have you ever invited a delegation of Muslims to meet with you to advance your understanding of a much misunderstood and often maligned religious community? Why are Muslims never invited to your prayer breakfasts? Would it not be of great advantage to you to appoint an Ambassador of Goodwill to the Middle East that will promote a greater understanding between both cultures? Isn't a handshake a greater tool of forming a New World Order than a gun muzzle?

I feel fortunate to have been born in this grand, beautiful country. I am so proud to be an American, but sometimes I am not very proud of America's conduct. Every day of my life I pray for peace and I pray that God Bless America. I had the great pleasure of shaking your hand as you exited the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco just before your election. Ever since I also pray that God Bless you, Mr. President, and to endow you with His Guidance.

Lastly, I have written to you so many times. Why have you never answered my letters? I have written to you on a personal basis as well as an official basis in my capacity as Public Relations Chairman for United Muslims of America. I will try to get your attention by fax this time as opposed to mail.

I ask you, Mr. President, in the name of peace, and in the name of God Almighty, to please use the power of a hand shake, not the threat of a gun muzzle.

Hoping to receive a response from you I remain yours truly,


Yousef Salem

Chairman - Public Relations
United Muslims of America