

ID# 311226

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FO 004-02

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 27, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MS. ERNESTINE J. RASCH

SUBJECT: OPPOSES THE LINKAGE OF GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL
TO POLITICAL ISSUES

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)		ACTION ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	DISPOSITION C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
KATHY JEAUVONS		ORG	92/02/27	ACK	92/05/07
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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 7, 1992

Dear Ms. Rasch:

Thank you for your letter to President Bush regarding U.S. policy toward Israel and the Middle East. The President appreciates having your views on this important issue.

The people of Israel deserve and need peace. There finally is a peace process underway that is worthy of that name. It began in March 1991, when President Bush launched an initiative to bring about peace and reconciliation between Israel and her Arab neighbors. Since their first meeting in Madrid, the parties have met several times to negotiate directly with the objective of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The President and Secretary of State Baker remain committed to playing an active role in helping these negotiations to succeed while recognizing that the parties themselves must bear the primary responsibility in this regard.

There should be no question as to the continuing commitment of the United States to the peace and security of Israel. As President Bush said, "Our fundamental commitment to Israel is just that -- fundamental." Thus the Administration's disagreement with the Government of Israel on the issue of loan guarantees should not be viewed as placing fundamentals at risk. Having been in the forefront of efforts to ensure free immigration to Israel, whether from the former Soviet Union or Ethiopia, President Bush supports the principle of absorption assistance for Israel.

The Administration has been negotiating with Israeli officials and Members of Congress to design a loan guarantee program that would meet Israel's needs and be consistent with long-standing U.S. policy. The Administration believes that if we are to provide \$10 billion in

new loan guarantees to Israel, the United States must have assurances that these funds will be used consistent with post-1967 U.S. policy that settlements are an obstacle to peace. We believe that holding fast to this principle is especially important given the historic peace process underway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cecile B. Kremer', written in a cursive style.

Cecile B. Kremer
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Director of the Office of Public Liaison

Ms. Ernestine J. Rasch
President, New York Section
National Council of Jewish Women
9 East 69th Street
New York, NY 10021



3/12/26

**New York Section
National Council of Jewish Women**

9 East 69 Street New York, New York 10021 (212) 535-5900

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S.O.S. - Senior Options and Support
WCBS TV - Troubleshooter
West 72 Street Food Pantry
Whitney Artreach

Kathy Javona

February 25, 1992

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

National Council of Jewish Women New York Section
urges the administration to proceed expeditiously
in its discussion with Israel subsequent to supporting
loan guarantees.

We oppose the linkage of guarantees to political
issues, and believe that the United States should
stand visible on this humanitarian issue.

We know that there is a longstanding commitment
on the part of the United States to assure the successful
absorption of Soviet and Ethiopian Jewish refugees in
Israel. You personally played a vital role in obtaining
freedom for these beleaguered people, and you have made
clear your commitment to helping them secure proper housing
and employment so they may become productive citizens
in their new homeland.

The most effective way to achieve this common goal
is to enact quickly legislation which would provide the
absorption loan guarantees to Israel.

Sincerely,

Ernestine J. Rasch
Ernestine J. Rasch
President

EJR:brs