

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FO 004-02

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 02, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE DAVE KERR

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY BAKER'S
REMARKS REGARDING CONDITIONS TO THE LOAN
GUARANTEE REQUEST BY ISRAEL

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MARY MCCLURE		ORG	92/03/02	MM A	92/03/17
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200 _____

IG 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.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 17, 1992

Dear Senator Kerr:

On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your message about U.S. policy toward Israel and the Middle East. Thank you, also, for your kind words of support for Secretary Baker.

As you know, representatives of Israel, Arab states, and the Palestinians attended an historic peace conference last October in Madrid. For the first time, the parties began to negotiate directly on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, with the objective of a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace.

In December and in January, the parties met again in Washington to continue direct negotiations. Intensive, substantive exchanges took place. Subsequently, the United States and the Russian Federation cosponsored a meeting in Moscow to organize multilateral negotiations on a variety of issues, including arms control and regional stability, economic development, water, environment, and refugees. In this way, the peace process was significantly expanded to include Arab states from the Gulf and North Africa as well as European governments, Japan, Canada, and China.

The Administration worked tirelessly to make these meetings and these negotiations possible. Moreover, the President has made it clear that he and Secretary of State James Baker will work to ensure that the United States continues to play an active role as an honest broker in helping the peace process to succeed.

The primary responsibility for peace, however, rests with the parties themselves; the United States cannot and will not impose its preferences on any party. Further, the Administration recognizes that it will take time to negotiate real peace and that there may be difficulties and possibly interruptions along the way. However, peace will bring real benefits to everyone.

Regarding loan guarantees, you are aware that President Bush asked Congress to defer consideration of Israel's request for \$10 billion in additional loan guarantees that are intended to help Israel absorb its many new immigrants. The President believed strongly that it was in the interest of everyone to have this question and the inevitable debate it would have stimulated delayed to allow the peace process to begin. Events have vindicated this approach.

We are committed to the principle of free emigration to Israel. At the same time, we firmly oppose settlement of those immigrants or other Israelis in the occupied territories, which we believe constitutes an obstacle to peace. We are now exploring, with the government of Israel, terms and conditions that would allow us to provide further assistance to Israel in absorbing immigration while simultaneously promoting the humanitarian goal of achieving real peace between Israel and her neighbors.

The President appreciates having your views on this important matter, and he sends his best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary McClure".

Mary McClure
Special Assistant to the President
for Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Dave Kerr
State Senator
State Capitol, Room 120-S
Topeka, KS 66612-1594

312060

DAVE KERR

SENATOR, THIRTY-FOURTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2620
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67504-2620
(316) 663-1225

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 120-S
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1594
(913) 296-7368



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

February 26, 1992

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRMAN: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MEMBER: EDUCATION
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE
JUDICIARY
WAYS AND MEANS

Mary Mcclure

The Honorable George Bush
President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing in support of statements made by Secretary of State James Baker before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. The Secretary has clearly stated that the United States does attach conditions to loan guarantees for new housing in Israel. Hopefully, this signals an end to the entirely one-sided relationship we have had with that country for decades.

I have spent a considerable amount of time in the Middle East and based upon countless conversations I have had with people there, I am convinced that the only real issue which separates the Arabs and Israelis is land. As long as we continue to provide Israel blank check support no matter how intransigent they are toward returning Arab lands captured in war, we will be the Arab World's hated enemy. Israel has no reason to compromise as long as our aid and assistance are provided unconditionally.

I do not know if Israel will be willing to compromise if we utilize the leverage available to us. However, I am very sure that she will not compromise if we do not use that leverage. I applaud the long overdue change of policy indicated by Secretary Baker's remarks, and I will certainly speak on its behalf among my fellow Kansans.

Sincerely,

Dave Kerr

Dave Kerr, Senator
Thirty-fourth District

DK/lm