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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1991

Dear Mr. Levy:

Thank you for your kind words of support for our efforts in launching the Middle East peace conference in Madrid. We accept, as you do, that the negotiations will be difficult and will take time. However, I assure you that we're going to continue to play an active role as an honest broker in helping the peace process to succeed.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Mr. Leon Levy
President
American Sephardi Federation
Suite 404
133 East 58th Street
New York, New York 10022

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I can respond
BK

OK for signature per Phil.

John H. Berlin

12/11/91



AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION

הפדרציה הספרדית באמריקה

President George M. Bush
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

November 1, 1991

Leon Levy
President
Suri Kasirer
Executive Director

Dear President Bush:

We, of the American Sephardi Federation, represent approximately 250,000 American citizens from the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin. We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to you for making the Madrid Conference a reality. We hope that your untiring efforts will lead to peace, security and prosperity for all people in the region.

All are in agreement that the process will be long and arduous. However, regardless of one's position, it is crystal clear from Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Sharra's opening remarks that Syria is less than forthcoming in its efforts to seek an equitable and lasting solution. The hope for peace seen in statements by the Egyptian, Lebanese and joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations appear to have been negated by Mr. Al-Sharra's misrepresentation of historical facts.

Today, approximately 4,000 Jews remain trapped in Syria, living in ghetto-like conditions, under 24 hour surveillance of the Syrian secret police (mukhabarat) and restricted in their travel internally and most certainly externally. These helpless civilians continue to be used as pawns by the Syrian government.

As all Americans, we continue to anguish over the fate of the remaining Western hostages held in Lebanon. In addition, as you are well aware, the fate of ten Lebanese Jews who were kidnapped and, in most cases, executed by the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth since 1985 is still undetermined. Information indicates that a number of these hostages may still be alive and are being held in captivity.

We implore the U.S. government to continue its effort on behalf of these helpless civilians in Syria and Lebanon. We wish you much success in your efforts to secure a just and lasting peace for all in the Middle East.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Leon Levy
Leon Levy
President

Suri Kasirer
Suri Kasirer
Executive Director