

Original FOIA Number: 2003-0260-F

6th FOIA Number:

2nd FOIA Number:

7th FOIA Number:

3rd FOIA Number:

8th FOIA Number:

4th FOIA Number:

9th FOIA Number:

5th FOIA Number:

10th FOIA Number:

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
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Record Group: Bush Presidential Records

Office: Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)

Series: Subject File - C.F.

Scanned/Unscanned:

WHORM Category Code: HU013-60

WHORM Category Name: Jewish-American Groups

Document Number: 262950

Alpha File Name:

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
04a. Memo	Case Number 262950 From Edmund J. Hull to Brent Scowcroft Re: Your Meeting with Senator Specter and Members of the American Syrian Jewish Community (1 pp.)	08/05/91	(b)(1)	S

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)
Series: Subject File - C.F.
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.: HU013-60
File Location: 134800 to 280443

Document Declassified
 (Document Follows)
 By 110 (NLGB) on 2/6/04

Date Closed:	2/3/2000	OA/ID Number:	00002-001
FOIA/SYS Case #:	1999-0285-F	Appeal Case #:	
Re-review Case #:		Appeal Disposition:	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:		Disposition Date:	
AR Case #:	1999-0285-F (14)	MR Case #:	
AR Disposition:	Released in Full	MR Disposition:	
AR Disposition Date:	12/29/2004	MR Disposition Date:	

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
 P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
 P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or
 financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President
 and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
 personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
 (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an
 agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
 (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
 (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial
 information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
 (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
 personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
 (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement
 purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
 (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of
 financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
 (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

G.F.

5848

August 5, 1991

262950

Natl Sec Advisor
has seen

HU013-60

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

THROUGH: RICHARD N. HAASS

FROM: EDMUND J. HULL

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Senator Specter and members of
the American Syrian Jewish Community at 2:00 p.m.,
Tuesday, August 6

Senator Specter has requested a short meeting between yourself and several key members of the American Syrian Jewish Community to discuss conditions of Jews in Syria (update at Tab I). Specter has a longstanding interest in the subject and has visited Syria four times.

Contrary to expectations, however, the group did not attempt to link this issue with the peace process in their meeting with Larry Eagleburger August 5. Such an approach, they realize, would only cause their issue to be linked with the plight of Syrian families divided by Israel's occupation of the Golan or even Palestinians suffering under Israeli occupation.

We agree that the issue should be dealt with as a humanitarian one. The President specifically raised the plight of the Jewish community when he met Assad in Geneva. Baker has reiterated our concern in his meetings with Assad. He has pressed for easing of travel and emigration restrictions and for clemency for some imprisoned community members. Assad has been somewhat receptive on the issue of emigration for single Jewish women who cannot find a husband. He has insisted that imprisoned Syrian Jews are treated no better nor worse than other Syrian citizens.

Your best approach would be to lend a sympathetic ear and encourage the delegation to continue to emphasize humanitarian aspects of the issue. You can point out that the administration never misses an opportunity to remind Syria of our interest. With recent progress in the peace process, those opportunities may increase. The delegation has also been in touch with Syrian ambassador Mouallam--a contact we should encourage.

Gardner Peckham concurs.

Attachment

Tab I Background on Syrian Jews

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PER E.O. 12958,
AS AMENDED
1999-0285-F
12/29/04 b1c

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
04b. Background Paper	Case Number 262950 Re: Background: Syrian Jews [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (2 pp.)	n.d.	(b)(1)	S

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)
Series: Subject File - C.F.
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.: HU013-60
File Location: 134800 to 280443

Document Declassified in Part
 (Document Follows)
 By 160 (NLGB) on 2/6/09

Date Closed:	2/3/2000	OA/ID Number:	00002-001
FOIA/SYS Case #:	1999-0285-F	Appeal Case #:	
Re-review Case #:		Appeal Disposition:	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:		Disposition Date:	
AR Case #:	1999-0285-F (14.01)	MR Case #:	
AR Disposition:	Released in Full Part	MR Disposition:	
AR Disposition Date:	12/29/2004	MR Disposition Date:	

RESTRICTION CODES

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BACKGROUND: SYRIAN JEWS

- o Approximately 3,800 Jews remain in Syria today (3,000 in Damascus, 600 in Aleppo, and 200 in Qamishli). While they are free to practice their religion, their status continues to be influenced by the ongoing state of war with Israel.
- o The situation of the Jewish community has improved somewhat in recent years. Jews, particularly those with significant holdings and financial ties to Syria, have found it somewhat easier to travel abroad in recent years. With some exceptions, however, the government continues its policy of not issuing passports to all members of a Jewish family at the same time.
- o Persons caught trying to travel abroad illegally, or suspected of having travelled to Israel are subject to arrest and imprisonment. Six Jews are currently in prison on these charges, including the two Soued brothers who have been imprisoned more than three years.
 - The Soued brothers were sentenced on May 21 to six years and eight months in prison for illegal travel to Israel. Their families have filed an appeal for clemency to President Assad.
 - Two Syrian Jews from Aleppo were sentenced in the fall of 1990 to two years in prison for trying to flee Syria across the border to Turkey. Two other Aleppo Jews (the Kastikas) are being held now on similar charges. Their wives and two children were released in mid-May; their families have been allowed regular visits. The two men have not yet been formally charged or tried in a court of law.
- o Emigration and detention problems experienced by the Syrian Jewish community have been discussed frequently in meetings between senior Syrian officials and the Secretary and Ambassador Djerejian. Some progress seems to have been made.

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
PER E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED

1999-0258-F

12/29/04 b1c

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Declassify on: OADR

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2

- [REDACTED] (b)(1)
[REDACTED] assurances in late-1989 about the right to emigrate of single Jewish women unable to find husbands in the small Syrian Jewish community. It is clear that this policy is being implemented, though the number of women allowed to emigrate decreased in 1990. Six women have been granted exit permission thus far in 1991, and more expect to receive permission soon.
- [REDACTED] (b)(1)
[REDACTED] gave assurances that Syrian Jews with family members in the U.S. will be allowed to emigrate. There is no evidence yet that this policy is being implemented.

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**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: TFS

LOG # 5848

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG Log A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
<u>Ken Hill</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>copy</u>	_____
Bill Sittmann	<u>2</u>	<u>copy</u>	_____
Bob Gates	_____	_____	_____
Brent Scowcroft	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
Bill Sittmann	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>548/6</u>	<u>N</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>5</u>	_____	<u>N/K</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No further Action

cc: VP Sununu Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS

*mtg w/ Senator Specter &
members of American
Syrian Jewish Community*

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

on Aug. 6 at 2:00pm

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NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9105848
RECEIVED: 05 AUG 91 19

TO: SCOWCROFT

FROM: HULL
HAASS

DOC DATE: 05 AUG 91
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: SYRIA
ANSA

ISRAEL

PERSONS: SPECTER, ARLEN

SUBJECT: SCOWCROFT MTG W/ SEN SPECTER 6 AUG RE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

ACTION: TRANSFERRED TO WH FILES DUE DATE: 08 AUG 91 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HULL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

HAASS

HULL

NSC CHRON

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5(b)

White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997

By GRH NARA, Date 2/3/00

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTAS

CLOSED BY: NSMJT

DOC 1 OF 1

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NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9105848
RECEIVED: 05 AUG 91 19

TO: SCOWCROFT

FROM: HULL
HAASS

DOC DATE: 05 AUG 91
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: SYRIA
ANSA

ISRAEL

PERSONS: SPECTER, ARLEN

SUBJECT: SCOWCROFT MTG W/ SEN SPECTER 6 AUG RE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

ACTION: NOTED BY SCOWCROFT

DUE DATE: 08 AUG 91

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HULL

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

HAASS

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5(b)

White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997

By gdx NARA, Date 2/3/00

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTAS

CLOSED BY: NSMJT BH

DOC 1 OF 1

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RECORD ID: 9105848

ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 SCOWCROFT

001

001

Z 91080520 FOR INFORMATION

X 91080619 NOTED BY SCOWCROFT

X 91080712 TRANSFERRED TO WH FILES

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5(b)

White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997

By gxt NARA, Date 2/3/00

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