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WHORM Category Code:	IT086
WHORM Category Name:	Secretariat, United Nations

Document Number:	144391
Alpha File Name:	

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 25, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. STEPHEN N. GELL

SUBJECT: URGES THE ADMINISTRATION TO REJECT THE
PROPOSAL TO SEND UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS
TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SARAH DECAMP		ORG	90/05/25		C 90/06/28
<i>99 DJS</i>	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: ALSO ATTACHED IS MAY 10 LETTER FROM MR.
GILL TO THE PRESIDENT REGARDING HIS VIEWS ON
JERUSALEM

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 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.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9012834

Date June 21, 1990

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush
From: Mr. Stephen N. Gell
Date: May 24, 1990
Subject: Rejection of observer
team to Israel

WH Referral Dated: June 7, 1990
NSCS ID# (if any): 144391

 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.
 X 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:

80 70455 41 51

RECEIVED

for *Debra Hecker*
Director
Secretariat Staff

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RECEIVED

90 JUN 22 A 7. 27

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 20, 1990

Dear Mr. Gell:

The President has asked me to respond to your letters of May 11 and May 24, 1990, concerning the UN Security Council consideration of Israel's settlements policy and practices, Soviet Jewish immigration and a UN team for the occupied territories.

The UN Security Council recently undertook a debate and vote focussed on the May 20 shooting and the subsequent violence in the occupied territories. These incidents, including the May 30 attack against Israel claimed by the Palestine Liberation Front, have troubled the United States deeply. You should know, however, that the U.S. remains opposed to permanent UN observers or peacekeeping forces in the occupied territories. The U.S. voted against a resolution calling for the dispatch of a commission consisting of three UN Security Council members to report on the situation in the territories and make recommendations to the Security Council on how to protect Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. We believed this approach would almost certainly have been rejected by Israel, had no hope of being practically implemented, and that it would have generated needless controversy harmful to the situation on the ground in the territories.

The U.S., nonetheless, continues to support practical steps to respond to the current tension and contribute to the peace process. In this regard, the U.S. welcomed the decision of the Government of Israel to invite UN official Jean-Claude Aime as a special emissary of the Secretary General to look at the situation and report back to the Secretary General. We are also pleased that the parties in the region have exhibited sufficient flexibility to allow this visit to take place.

Let me also assure you that U.S. policy on the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews from the Soviet Union has not changed: the U.S. welcomes and strongly supports this right, and stands ready to oppose any effort to criticize or restrict such emigration. We also support Israel's effort to absorb these immigrants. At the same time, the United States opposes

Mr. Stephen N. Gell,
President,
Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington,
1522 K Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

the absorption of Soviet Jews into the occupied territories. This is consistent with our well-known policy on settlements in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. We believe such settlements are an obstacle to peace and oppose them. Our stand on these questions has been articulated clearly and repeatedly by the highest levels of the U.S. Government. As for a Security Council resolution on these issues, we did not seek a debate in the Council; indeed, we sought to defer such deliberation. At the time of this writing, there are no negotiations on a draft resolution on the question of Soviet Jews or settlements.

I want to stress that the United States remains committed to renewal of an active and viable peace process among the parties in the region. We are strongly committed to the security of Israel and the search for peace--two objectives which we believe go hand-in-hand. Only such an effort can work to end the spiraling cycle of violence--such as the tragic events we have witnessed in recent weeks. We stand ready to continue our peace efforts and assist the parties toward the attainment of a just and durable peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John R. Bolton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Bolton" clearly distinguishable.

John R. Bolton
International
Organizations Affairs

9012834

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JUNE 7, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 144391

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 24, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. STEPHEN N. GELL
PRESIDENT
JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF
GREATER WASHINGTON
1522 K STREET, NW.
WASHINGTON DC 20005

SUBJECT: URGES THE ADMINISTRATION TO REJECT THE
PROPOSAL TO SEND UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS
TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

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

144391

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OF GREATER WASHINGTON**

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May 24, 1990

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Tom Wolfsohn
Matlee Yadin
Rosalind Zeidman

S. De Camp
President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I urge the Administration to reject the proposal to send United Nations observers to the West Bank and Gaza.

Such a major change in American policy and posture at this time can only be seen as an American rejection of Israel, and can only result in fanning the flames of Arab violence and anti-Israel United Nations action.

On behalf of the over 220 synagogues and Jewish organizations which compose the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, I urge America's representatives to the United Nations Security Council meeting in Geneva not to support this pernicious plan, which will exacerbate rather than ameliorate the already highly charged political climate in the area.

Jewish Youth Assembly

Jennifer Braveman
Lara Saidman

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Dr. Harvey H. Ammerman
Albert E. Arent
Rabbi Isadore Breslau*
Phyllis Frank*
Aaron Goldman
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Nathan Lewin
Richard K. Lyon
Rabbi Solomon Metz*
Bert Silver
Bernard S. White
Seymour D. Wolf
Joel D. Wolfson*
*deceased

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MURRAY TENENBAUM

Professional Staff

MARLENE GORIN
Associate Executive Director
SAMUEL H. SISLEN
Director of
International Affairs
MARILYN ABEL
Director of Outreach

Sincerely,

Stephen N. Gell
President

cc: Secretary of State
James A. Baker III

The central, representative body of over 215 affiliated Jewish organizations in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, devoted to community relations, information and action.

MEMBER AGENCY OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL
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 • Suburban MD Chapter
 • National Capital Chapter
 • Raoul Wallenberg DC Chapter
 American Red Magen David for Israel
 Capital Region
 American Technion Society
 • Washington Chapter
 • Women's Division Washington Chapter
 Americans For A Safe Israel
 Arlington-Fairfax Jewish Congregation
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 B'nai Brith
 • National Capital Association
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 B'nai Brith Women - South Atlantic Region
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 • Abram Simon Chapter
 • Argo Chapter
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 • Mitzvah Chapter
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 BB/BBW Habirah Unit
 BB/BBW Homecrest Unit
 B'nai Brith Hillel Foundations
 • American University
 • George Washington University
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 B'nai Israel Congregation Men's Club
 B'nai Israel Congregation Sisterhood
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 Beth Chai
 Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Va.
 Beth Israel Congregation, Lexington Park
 Beth Shalom Congregation & Talmud Torah
 Beth Shalom Congregation & Talmud Torah
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 Beth Tikva Synagogue
 Beth Torah Congregation
 Bethesda-Chevy Chase Jewish
 Community Group
 Bethesda Jewish Congregation
 Cantors Association of Greater Washington
 Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School
 Congregation Beth El of Montgomery
 County
 Congregation Beth Emeth
 Congregation Har Shalom
 Congregation Har Tzeon-Agudath Achim
 Congregation Olam Tikvah
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 • Dimona Club
 • Habira Club

• Hanita Club
 • Kinneret Club
 • Medina Club
 • Rachel Ben Zvi Club
 • Ruach Club
 National Capital Area Chapter of
 Men's Ort
 National Council of Jewish Women
 • Montgomery County Section
 • Northern Virginia Section
 • Washington, D.C. Section
 National Capital Tay-Sachs Foundation
 Ner Shalom Hebrew Congregation
 Nevev Shalom Jewish Congregation
 Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation
 Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center
 Ohavei Tzedek-Ezras Israel
 Ohav Shalom Talmud Torah Congregation
 Ohr Kodesh Congregation
 Ohr Kodesh Congregation Sisterhood
 Ohr Yisrael Congregation
 Oseh Shalom (Jewish Congregation of
 Laurel)
 Parents of North American Israelis - DC
 Metro Area Chapter
 President's Assembly of Conservative
 Congregations of Greater Washington
 Reconstructionist Havurah of Greater
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 Service Guild of Washington
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 Shaare Tzedek Hospital, Washington, D.C.
 Region (American Committee for)
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 Silver Spring Jewish Center
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 Temple Emanuel
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 Temple Micah
 Temple Rodef Shalom
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 Temple Sinai
 Temple Sinai Brotherhood
 Temple Sinai Sisterhood
 Temple Solel
 Tifereth Israel Congregation
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 (Seaboard Region)
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 Washington Association for Ethiopian Jews
 Washington Board of Rabbis
 Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry
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 • Olney Chapter
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 • Silver Spring Chapter
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 Woodside Synagogue - Ahavas Torah
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#144391

May 10, 1990

S. McCamp

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Director of Outreach

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

Dear President Bush:

May 23 marks the twenty-third anniversary of reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. Since recent pronouncements by some American officials have renewed public debate over the Holy City, we thought it both appropriate and timely to communicate our views to you.

Jerusalem was established by King David as the capital of the ancient Jewish kingdom in the year 1003 Before the Common Era. King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem 40 years later, in 963 BCE. That fundamental Jewish event took place 1300 years before the first Christian settlement in Jerusalem (in 300 CE) and 1600 years before the first Muslim settlement (in 638 CE).

Despite the turbulent history of the city, Jerusalem has remained central to Jewish political and religious aspiration for nearly 3000 years. Indeed, there has been a constant Jewish presence in Jerusalem for the entirety of its history, and there has been a Jewish majority in the city since 1844.

Jerusalem was conquered by successive regimes, each leaving a remnant of its religion and culture as part of the city's unique character. But the city remained whole until 1949.

When armistice lines were drawn after the combined attack of Arab armies was defeated by the nascent Israeli state in 1948, the city was divided and remained so for 19 years. During that dark period the government of Jordan denied Jews access to their holy sites, destroyed ancient synagogues and cemeteries, used Jewish grave stones as building blocks for Jordanian army latrines.

Since 1967, when Jerusalem was reunified in the "Six Day War", heroic efforts have been made by the government of Israel to ensure access of all faiths to their holy sites; to strive for ethnic and religious harmony and tolerance; to preserve the unique archaeological and historical significance of the city.

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- Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Va.
- Beth Israel Congregation, Lexington Park
- Beth Shalom Congregation & Talmud Torah
- Beth Shalom Congregation & Talmud Torah Ladies Auxiliary
- Beth Tikva Synagogue
- Beth Torah Congregation
- Bethesda-Chevy Chase Jewish Community Group
- Bethesda Jewish Congregation
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- Mishkan Torah Congregation
- Na'amat USA
 - Greater Washington Council
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 - Habira Club
- Hanita Club
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- Medina Club
- Rachel Ben Zvi Club
- Ruach Club
- National Capital Area Chapter of Men's Ort
- National Council of Jewish Women
 - Montgomery County Section
 - Northern Virginia Section
 - Washington, D.C. Section
- National Capital Tay-Sachs Foundation
- Ner Shalom Hebrew Congregation
- Nevev Shalom Jewish Congregation
- Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation
- Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center
- Ohavei Tzedek-Ezras Israel
- Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah Congregation
- Ohr Kodesh Congregation
- Ohr Kodesh Congregation Sisterhood
- Ohr Yisrael Congregation
- Oseh Shalom (Jewish Congregation of Laurel)
- Parents of North American Israelis - DC Metro Area Chapter
- President's Assembly of Conservative Congregations of Greater Washington
- Reconstructionist Havurah of Greater Washington
- Religious Zionists of America (Mizrachi-Hapoel Hamizrachi)
- Service Guild of Washington
- Shaare Tefila Congregation
- Shaare Tzedek Hospital, Washington, D.C. Region (American Committee for)
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- Women's International Zionist Organization
- Woodside Synagogue - Ahavas Torah
- Workmen's Circle - Branch 92/494
- Yeshiva of Greater Washington
- Yiddish of Greater Washington
- Young Israel Shomrei Emenah Congregation
- Young People's Synagogue
- Zionist Organization of America - Louis D. Brandeis District

Most importantly to Jews, Israel's capital was no longer divided; Jerusalem was able to continue the legacy that King David began.

Jerusalem's well known and respected Mayor, Teddy Kollek, most poignantly summarized the centrality of Jerusalem to Jews saying,

This beautiful city is the heart and soul of the Jewish people. You cannot live without a heart and soul. If you want one simple word to symbolize all of Jewish history, that word would be Jerusalem.

Without diminishing the longevity or the veracity of the Jewish claim to the city, there are other, conflicting claims -- by Christians, by Muslims, by Arabs. Those claims are exacerbated by the deep emotion of the many groups who feel a historical connection to Jerusalem. And these historical conflicts translate into thorny contemporary issues -- issues of boundaries, of suffrage, of autonomy, of religious principle.

Recognizing these emotion-charged issues, in the Camp David agreements the governments of Israel, the United States and Egypt wisely set aside Jerusalem for the final stage of negotiation.

The U.S. Department of State has said that "the United States does not recognize the unilateral actions undertaken by Israel in regard to East Jerusalem since the June 1967 war. We believe that the future status of these areas must be settled in the framework of peace negotiations... It is our view that Jerusalem should not again be divided and that complete freedom of access by all to religious shrines should be guaranteed."

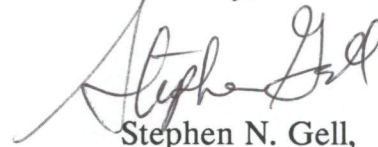
Jerusalem is and will always be the capital of Israel. World Jewry shares with Israelis a strong commitment to a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty. In sharp contrast to the pre-1967 Jordanian experience, Israeli control of the city has guaranteed free access to all religious sites.

The American Jewish community believes that American policy falls short of the mark, and should speak to the goal of Jerusalem being the physically and politically undivided capital of Israel, with, of course, free access to the holy places.

The American Jewish community also believes that the somewhat arbitrary designations of "East" and "West" Jerusalem are unhelpful to an accurate understanding of the history of the city, and we believe that Jews have the right to live wherever they wish and that efforts to categorically restrict Jewish settlement are unacceptable.

The Jewish Community Council strongly urges you to remain firm in your support of a politically and physically unified Jerusalem, and to forcefully reject any efforts which becloud or further exacerbate the political sensitivities of the concerned parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen N. Gell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "G".

Stephen N. Gell,
President