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FOIA MARKER

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Record Group:	Bush Presidential Records
Office:	Records Management, White House Office of (WHORM)
Series:	Subject File - General
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WHORM Category Code: JL003
WHORM Category Name: Criminal Matters

Document Number: 057811
Alpha File Name:

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

2L003

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 27, 1989

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI M. ROBERT SYME

SUBJECT: URGES REFRAIN FROM CONTACT WITH TERRORISTS
SUCH AS THE PLO AND OTHERS

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SICHAN SIV		ORG	89/07/27		C 89/07/28
Phil Hughes, NSC	REFERRAL NOTE:	D	89/07/28		C 89/08/09
	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	89/8/14		A no/dated
PLSiv	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	89/08/22		C 89/08/29
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 1 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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.

89 AUG 2 A10: 42

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date

8/29

TO:

Control Reference

FROM:

KATHY JEAVONS
Assistant Director
Office of Public Liaison
Room 129 OEOP, Ext. 7845

The attached is for:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Information | ☐ Review & Comment |
| ☐ Direct Response | ☒ Appropriate Action |
| ☐ Draft Reply | ☐ Signature |
| ☐ File | ☐ Other |
| ☐ Please Return By _____ | |

COMMENTS:

the blue sheet says this
has already been answered;
is there anything further we
need to do?

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

✓ PLSIV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8918770

Date August 18, 1989

For: Mr. Philip Hughes
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

Reference:

To: President Bush From: Rabbi M. Robert Syme

Date: July 24, 1989 Subject:

Dealing with the PLO

Referral Dated: August 14, 1989 ID# 057811
(if any)

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.
- XXXXXX 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:

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

Director
Secretariat Staff

WHITE HOUSE

UNCLASSIFIED

89 AUG 18 PM : 16

89 AUG 19 A 8: 56

SITUATION ROOM

UNCLASSIFIED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Rabbi Syme and Dr. Warshay:

Thank you for your letter of July 24 concerning the Administration's dialogue with the PLO. The President has asked me to respond on his behalf.

We fully share your concerns over terrorism, and note that our people frequently have been the victims of such acts. The Administration is committed fully to combatting terrorism and is energetically pursuing those who have attacked American citizens. Our efforts to extradite Muhammad Rashid from Greece and to extradite Muhammad Atta to Israel as well as to deny sanctuary to several other Palestinian terrorists reflect this.

We initiated the dialogue only after the PLO met long-standing US conditions, including the renunciation of terrorism. In view of the PLO's past activities, the U.S. insisted that Arafat renounce, not simply condemn or denounce, terrorism. We do not make excuses for these past PLO activities, nor does opening the dialogue wipe the slate clean. But, we have seen evidence that Arafat has made good faith efforts to rein in those under his control. We continue to monitor PLO activities closely and we will continue to hold the PLO to its commitment to renounce terrorism.

The US/PLO dialogue is not an end in itself, but rather a means to fashion a workable peace process. Thus, we are using the dialogue to urge the PLO to give practical application to the commitments Arafat undertook last December. Since May, we have been urging the PLO to take a position which allows progress toward elections and negotiations. In particular, we are trying to generate a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza which would discuss elections, decrease suspicions, and transform the current dialogue of violence in the intifada into a dialogue of politics and diplomacy.

Rabbi M. Robert Syme and Dr. Leon H. Warshay,
Zionist Organization of America,
Metropolitan Detroit District,
18451 West 10 Mile Road,
Southfield, Michigan.

The U.S. commitment to Israel's survival and security remains unshakable. It is one of the fundamental bases of our approach to Arab-Israeli peace making. We believe Israel must remain strong, and we will not allow any party to drive a wedge between us. We believe that security for Israel can best be achieved and guaranteed over the long term in the context of a comprehensive peace.

All parties have a responsibility to contribute to advancing the peace process. As President Bush said in his July 20 letter to the Senate, after six months of careful preparation, we have arrived at a sensitive but promising diplomatic juncture. Our dialogue with the PLO is a useful tool and contributes to the ability of the United States to promote a viable peace process in the Middle East. I can assure you that the U.S. will continue actively to pursue the search for peace in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Theodore H. Kattouf
Acting Director
Office of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria,
and Palestinian Affairs

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

AUGUST 14, 1989

8918770

'89 AUG-11 10:49 PM

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 057811

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 24, 1989

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: RABBI M. ROBERT SYME
PRESIDENT
METROPOLITAN DETROIT DISTRICT
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
18451 WEST 10 MILE ROAD
SOUTHFIELD MI 48075

SUBJECT: URGES REFRAIN FROM CONTACT WITH TERRORISTS
SUCH AS THE PLO AND OTHERS

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

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית

Zionist Organization of America

— METROPOLITAN DETROIT DISTRICT —



Zionist Cultural Center

• 18451 West 10 Mile Road

• Southfield, Michigan 48075

• (313) 569-1515

July 24, 1989

In Israel:
ZOA HOUSE
1 Daniel Frisch St., Tel-Aviv
Cables: ZOAHOUSE, Tel-Aviv

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

Dear Mr. President:

S. Sw
The Zionist Organization of America, Metro Detroit District, strongly reaffirms the position of our parent body, the Zionist Organization of America, that our country not only refrain from contact with terrorists, but that it not deal with the PLO at all.

The recent Senate vote of 97-1 on an amendment to a bill authorizing funds for the State Department was, as you are aware, a watered-down version of a more strict amendment by Senator Helms (R-NC); it was Mr. Helms himself who supplied the single negative vote against the version that was passed.

Among the terrorists against whom the amendment was aimed is Saleh Khalef (Abu Iyad), second in command to PLO Chairman, Yassir Arafat and leader of the Black September group that murdered U.S. Ambassador to the Sudan, Cleo A. Noel, Jr., Deputy Counselor George C. Moore, and the 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics. Black September, as you know, also formulated plans to assassinate President Nixon, former Secretary of State William Rogers and former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird.

Mr. President, we respect your desire to pursue America's vital interests. However, we feel that it was a mistake for our country to rush into meetings with the PLO. Even after Chairman Arafat finally got his semantics right, after several attempts and much coaching, it was foolhardy of us to accept his final statement at face value, even to accept it as a starting point for discussions. Given the PLO's history for over two decades, we should not have acted as if we believed him without a sufficient period of time, following his statements, in order to test PLO actions and intentions.

It was not long after last December's events that Mr. Arafat's contradictory statements, in Arabic and other languages, cast his intentions into doubt. Moreover, the statements and actions by radical PLO factions led by Habash, Nidal, Hawatmeh, Jabril and Abbas belie Chairman Arafat's ability to negotiate in good faith.

Very truly yours,

M. Robert Syme
Rabbi M. Robert Syme
President

Leon H. Warshay
Dr. Leon H. Warshay
Vice President and Chair,
Public Affairs Committee

cc: Secretary James Baker

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