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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ME003

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: OCTOBER 17, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. DAVID W. BELIN

SUBJECT: REQUESTS A MESSAGE FOR A TRIBUTE DINNER FOR
CONGRESSMAN JIM LEACH, OCT 18 90; EXPRESSES
VIEWS ON ISRAEL'S ROLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS;
RELAYS ANN LANDERS' SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SARAH DECAMP		ORG	90/10/17		C 90/10/13
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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COMMENTS: FORMER EXEC. DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION ON
CIA ACTIVITIES; PAST CHAIRMAN OF NORTH
AMERICAN BOARD OF THE WORLD UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4640

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.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 10/16/90

TO: *S. McCamp*

*Special message
office does not
have a copy of
this letter for
Action on #1 Request*



FROM: GLORIA CHONKA
Presidential Correspondence,
Mail Analysis
Room 58, Extension 6600

183195

**BELIN HARRIS HELMICK
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Of Counsel
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September 27, 1990

J. H. Camp
President George Bush
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Re: Congressman Jim Leach, Bob Teeter, and Ann Landers

Dear President Bush:

With the price of postage going up, I thought I would include three matters in one letter:

- encl*
1. Jim Leach. I thought you might want to know about a unique dinner honoring your friend, Jim Leach. Dave Hurd, Chief Executive Officer of The Principal Financial Group (one of the largest, most successful and best-run insurance companies in the country), and I are co-hosting a bipartisan dinner in Des Moines in honor of Jim Leach. We call it a "NoMonRa" dinner because no money is being raised. Our purpose is to recognize Jim as a statesman for all of his work in Washington, and in particular in the savings and loan crisis. Jim is a true "statesman" and we think it is important to honor public officials who demonstrate statesmanship. Enclosed is a copy of the invitation. If you want to write a note or send a telegram to Jim, you can send it to me ahead of time, and I will surprise Jim when I read it to the group.
 2. Bob Teeter. From time to time, I have discussed with Bob various problems involving the American Jewish community and some of the reasons I believe the Republican Party has failed to capture a greater proportion of support from American Jewish voters. I have also discussed with Bob my views concerning the stalled peace process discussions between Israel and the Palestinians. He suggested that if I do any writing in this area, I should send a copy to you for your review. Enclosed is a copy of an op-ed piece I recently wrote which was published in today's Des Moines Register, where I talk about the need for Israel to be as creative in the peace process as it has been on the battlefield.
 3. Ann Landers. This past Monday, I had dinner in Chicago with Ann Landers and she really chuckled when I related to her the background of your handwritten P.S. to me in your August 28 letter, responding to my observation that based upon my personal experience, Ann Landers carried more weight than Bob Teeter. (She should--she tells me that her column is

President George Bush
September 27, 1990
Page 2

read by 90 million people throughout the world.) She was visibly impressed and said (referring to you), "That he is able to have a sense of humor these days about anything speaks very well for him."

Warm regards--you are doing a terrific job!

Sincerely,

David W. Belin

DWB:cs

Encl.

c.c. Bob Teeter

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DAVID W. BELIN AND G. DAVID HURD

Des Moines, Iowa
September 18, 1990

We invite you to what we believe is one of the most unique evenings in modern political history -- a NoMonRa (no money raised) dinner in the middle of an election campaign to honor one of the most outstanding elected officials in our country -- Jim Leach. The date and place are October 18, 1990 at the Des Moines Club. The informal reception will start at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner at 7:00 p.m.

We feel that all of Iowa, indeed all of America, should honor Jim for his work on the House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs as well as the House Foreign Affairs Committee. If he had been listened to, the S&L debacle would be less debacled. The quality of his efforts has not been limited to the S&L crisis, but has extended to all areas of work.

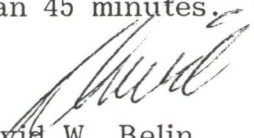
To our minds, his work meets the definition -- "statesman". We are honoring Jim Leach to show our feeling and respect for him, and that our society reveres such persons and hopes others will rise to his level.

You probably know that Jim has no opponent for this November's election, does not accept PAC money, and does not accept large contributions -- \$500 is the maximum. He is one very rare individual.

Therefore, it seems a good time for us -- a Republican and a Democrat -- to invite you to honor him by showing up for this dinner, which will cost you time and transportation, but that's it. We think you will find it extremely interesting to hear some of Jim's fascinating vignettes and background information about the S&L debacle, some of the most important lessons to learn to avoid future debacles of this kind, and what we might expect in the near future in the aftermath of what has turned out to be a major national economic tragedy.

In deciding whom to invite, we selected a group of Iowa business leaders. Because we wish to keep the dinner relatively small and informal, we are not including everyone we might otherwise have wanted, and we are not extending an invitation to spouses. We hope, either before or after dinner, you will have a chance to visit informally with Jim.

One final bit of good news: our NoMonRa evening program, even allowing time for some questions to Jim from the audience, should last no longer than 45 minutes. We hope you will be able to join us on October 18.



David W. Belin



G. David Hurd

Please RSVP before October 1, if at all possible, to Linda Hollister and let us know if you prefer fish or beef. A return postcard is enclosed.

Telephone (515) 247-5479
FAX (515) 247-5930
Mail The Principal Financial Group
711 High Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50392-0100

Israel's daring moves could aid peace effort

By DAVID W. BELIN



As tensions continue to rise in the Kuwait crisis, there is a unique opportunity for Israel to do the unexpected and take a major step toward Middle East peace. From its own selfish standpoint, there are tremendous potential gains provided that Israel acts quickly. The downside risks are relatively

minimal.

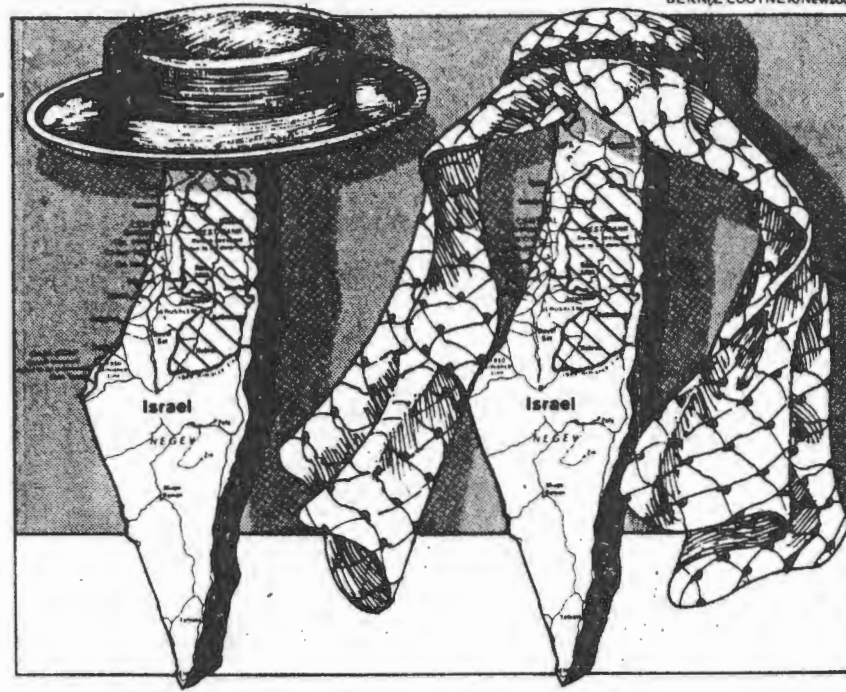
One of the primary reasons Israel has survived these past 42 years is its innovative and creative strategy on the battlefield. For instance, at the outset of the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel sought to destroy the Egyptian air force. The Egyptians anticipated a potential direct attack and were poised to intercept all aircraft coming from the east.

However, instead of flying directly toward the Egyptian air fields and attacking from an easterly direction, the Israeli aircraft flew over the Mediterranean Sea past the air fields and then turned around and attacked from the west — a tactic that was wholly unexpected and enabled Israel to surprise the Egyptians with their aircraft on the ground.

This was an example of innovation and creativity at its best on the battlefield — reaping huge dividends through doing the unexpected. Israel should use these standards in commencing a new "peace offensive" at a time when the eyes of the world are concentrating on another part of the Middle East — a time when virtually everyone expects that Israel will stand by and do nothing while the United States is working with the United Nations to pressure Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Israel should consider such ideas as a phased unilateral withdrawal by the Israeli army from those areas of the West Bank not essential to Israeli security, with appropriate guarantees of permanent demilitarization. Such guarantees would be monitored by Israel, alone, rather than a U.N. force. Israel knows from long experience that U.N. forces do not provide adequate assurances for safety.

Thomas L. Friedman, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter of The New York Times and one of the most perceptive writers on Middle East problems, proposes two basic alternatives along these lines in the epilogue of the new paperback edition of his award-winning book,



"From Beirut to Jerusalem."

As Friedman points out, Israel controls the bargaining chips for any agreement — the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip — and has the incentive to move quickly because of the sheer demographics of the population increase of Arabs in the occupied territories.

He also is correct when he writes that "many Israeli generals believe that Israel can withdraw from significant portions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip without endangering itself," provided Israel retains whatever it deems necessary, such as early warning security systems, "to ensure that this Palestinian state could never — ever — threaten Israel's existence, even if it wanted to. . . ."

Obviously, Israel would retain buffer zones around Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and in addition would maintain positions on such strategic areas as the mountain ridge running through the West Bank. But substantial portions of the West Bank could be left to the Palestinians.

Any withdrawal could be done in limited stages over a period of years, with successive

stages in part dependent upon the Arab response. The Palestinians conceivably could form their own government or could return to Jordan, if they so chose. But there would have to be some Israeli nominal presence to make certain that no military forces hostile to Israel would ever be located on any land relinquished.

A limited phased withdrawal would have a major collateral benefit to Israel because under the current conditions, the relatively high birth rate among Arabs poses a serious long-range population problem — a problem that cannot be solved even when one takes into consideration the immigration of Jews fleeing the Soviet Union. Giving up a substantial portion of the West Bank would enable Israel to maintain itself as the only true democracy in the Middle East without endangering the Jewish majority. Removing hundreds of thousands of angry Arabs from daily confrontation with Israelis would also be very constructive from internal-security and human-relations standpoints.

There are other alternatives that can also be explored as a first step in an overall imaginative peace offensive. Most of these involve negotiations. But with whom? There is no Arab statesman who has, like Anwar Sadat had, the stature and vision to negotiate on behalf of the other side. Therefore, since a successful negotiation with a key Arab leader is not a very practicable alternative, it is my conviction that the most realistic approach must include some kind of a limited phased unilateral withdrawal from portions of the West Bank.

This would not be a panacea to a quick solution that would bring lasting peace for all parties. Rather, it would simply be a very important first major step down the long road to peace.

Psychologically, for Israel to undertake such an innovative peace offensive would vividly demonstrate its strength and confidence to survive as the only true democracy in the Middle East.

The key factor for Israel to consider is that everyone expects Israel to do nothing while the Kuwait crisis has the eyes of the world focused on problems of the Middle East outside of Israel. Everyone assumes that the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and the resulting crisis has alleviated the pressure on Israel to make any movement whatsoever and that Israel, like most other nations in its situation, will just stand pat until the Kuwait crisis is resolved. That could take weeks, months, or even years.

It is this very set of assumptions that gives rise to the unique opportunity for Israel to do the unexpected and come forward with the same qualities of imagination and creativity in the quest for peace that Israel has shown in the wars for its survival.

Those who count themselves among Israel's truest friends should undertake every effort to encourage Israel to grasp the opportunity that now exists. Timing can be everything, and for Israel, the time is ripe to act flexibly and creatively in the cause of peace. There are huge dividends to be reaped — for Israel and the entire world.

David W. Belin of Des Moines was executive director of the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States and is the immediate past chairman of the North American Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

RUSSELL BAKER



New York is dying — again

NEW YORK is dying again, as it was in 1974 when I moved there from Washington. Then, as now, many people were saying good riddance. "Drop Dead" was The Daily News' famous headline summation of President Ford's advice to the city.

Fed-up New Yorkers were getting out, as always. After living there

Flansburg is on vacation

JAMES FLANSBURG is on vacation. His column is scheduled to resume on Tuesday, Oct. 2.

for a while I was struck, on trips to the suburbs, by the vast population of former New Yorkers out there who had decamped because of previous deaths of the city. All over New Jersey, Westchester County and Long Island, old-timers who had lived in the city during the Depression or the war years or the fat '50s talked lovingly about its bygone glories.

Still speaking the city's distinctive accents, they were quick to reminisce about its lost splendors. "But I'd never live there now," they often added, and gave you an unpersuasive account of the quiet pleasures of suburban life.

They often seemed amazed to hear I had deliberately chosen to live in New York. So awful now. I should have been there in the old days.

I had several reasons for going in 1974. One was a hick's suspicion that though small-town roots and mud-