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WHORM Category Name: Opinions - Statements - Questionnaires - Articles

Document Number: 124629

Alpha File Name:

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 124629

PR 013-08

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 21, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI M. ROBERT SYME

SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING STATEMENT ON SOVIET
JEWS AND EAST JERUSALEM

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	90/03/21		C 90104022 DJ
99 DAS	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:	DJ	90/4/4		A 90106122
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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.

UNCLASSIFIED

S/S# 9008183
DATE June 22, 1990

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

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

REFERENCE:

TO: President Bush

FROM: Rabbi M. Robert Syme, President
Zionist Organization of America

DATE: March 9, 1990

SUBJECT: U.S. Policy Regarding Jerusalem

WH Referral Dated: April 4, 1990
NSC ID# (if any): 124629

 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

XXX 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:


for Director
Secretariat Staff



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 22, 1990

Rabbi M. Robert Syme
President
Zionist Organization of America
18451 West 10 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48075

Dear Rabbi Syme:

I have been asked to reply to your letter to President Bush expressing concern about his remarks regarding Jerusalem. I sincerely regret the long delay in this response but welcome the opportunity to restate U.S. policy about the city.

We are aware of the great significance which Jerusalem has for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. As such, access to the holy sites must be ensured for people of all faiths.

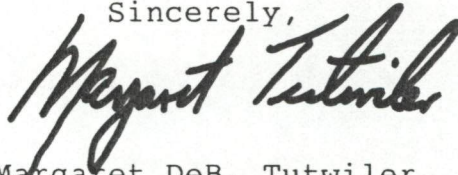
It has long been our policy that Jerusalem must remain undivided, with its ultimate status to be decided through negotiations. There is no question that negotiations about Jerusalem would be facilitated if we were well along on the path to peace, and thus there is no intention now to focus on the final status of Jerusalem.

In the meantime, all sides should avoid unilateral acts or unilateral assertions of rights that might exacerbate local tensions or make it more difficult to make progress in the peace process. All people in Jerusalem ought to uphold and promote comity in the city by not acting in ways that would prejudice prospects for the peace process. As recent events in the city have demonstrated, the real question is not an abstract one of rights, but rather how those rights are implemented.

Now that a new government has been formed in Israel, we will continue our peace efforts. The Administration is prepared to assist the parties in the Middle East toward

attainment of a just and durable peace. We remain strongly committed to the security of Israel and to the search for peace--two objectives which we believe go hand in hand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Margaret Tutwiler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margaret" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Tutwiler".

Margaret DeB. Tutwiler
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
and Department Spokesman

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

REFERRAL

APRIL 4, 1990

9008183

'90 APR-10 10:10 PM

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 124629

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 15, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

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

SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING STATEMENT ON SOVIET
JEWS AND EAST JERUSALEM

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

11/ הסתדרות 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

March 15, 1990

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

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

Dear Mr. President:

S. McCamp

We address you as a proven friend and champion of the State of Israel, a friendship that has survived the vicissitudes of time and the changing political climates in this country and in Israel.

It is because we respect you as a leader and share your vision of a "gentler", more compassionate America, that we are impelled to take exception to your recent admonition to Israel to cease and desist from settling Soviet Jews in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Whatever the outcome of the peace process, Palestinian Arabs will undoubtedly continue to live within the borders of Israel - as they do now - and Jews will continue to live in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, including East Jerusalem, regardless of the final disposition of the territories.

The notion that Soviet Jews seeking freedom as well as freedom of choice will be barred from settling anywhere in Jerusalem, the one and indivisible capital of Israel, is an anomaly the people of Israel cannot possibly acquiesce in.

Moreover, Secretary Baker's recent statement to the effect that U.S. humanitarian aid for the absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel will be contingent upon their being barred from settling in the administered territories was specious and unwarranted. Surely, Prime Minister Shamir's assurances that Soviet Jews will not be officially encouraged or directed to settle in the territories was as valid an undertaking as any sovereign, democratic state can afford to offer.

We respectfully and earnestly urge you to allay the misgivings and anxieties aroused by the statements referred to above as a reaffirmation of the traditional U.S. - Israel alliance of friendship and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

M. Robert Syme
Rabbi M. Robert Syme,
President

Leon H. Warshay
Dr. Leon H. Warshay,
Chairman, Public Affairs Committee