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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1992 FEB 27 P7:01

309046SS

PC013-08

MEMORANDUM FOR PHILLIP BRADY

THROUGH: RONALD C. KAUFMAN *RCW*
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS

FROM: RUTH C. GUIMOND *RG*
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, OFFICE OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: ARAB AMERICAN ANTI DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE
QUESTIONNAIRE

Phil, attached please find the reconciled version of the answers to the questionnaire for the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The Bush-Quayle'92 Primary Committee has requested approval as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Melton Ind
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President Bush's Answers to Questions Submitted
by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
due 2/21

I. Civil Rights

1. Should ethnic minority groups be protected under the law to the same degree as racial minority groups?

President Bush's Answer: ~~Yes.~~ No individual should be the target of racial or ethnic discrimination, and our civil rights laws very clearly outlaw such discrimination. I believe strongly in civil rights and will not tolerate discrimination of any kind. Each American is entitled to be treated on his own merit. This has always been my philosophy, and as long as I am President I will work to make it a reality for all Americans.

2. Do you support minority business status for Arab-Americans for purposes of Sec. 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 637(a)?

President Bush's Answer: Small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals should have the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts offered by any federal agency, and I have worked to expand the Small Business Administration's role in providing business opportunities for minorities, women, and veterans. Small business is the lifeblood of America's free enterprise system. Small businesses reward innovation, create jobs, and give people the means by which to claim their piece of the American dream.

3. What would you do to stem the growth of hate violence against members of racial, ethnic and religious minority groups?

President Bush's Answer: There is no room in America for bigotry, intolerance, racism, or discrimination in any form or in any place. My administration has supported the enactment of hate crimes legislation in order to rid our country of the poison of prejudice, bias, and discrimination. Further, at my direction Attorney General William Barr has made the prosecution of hate

The Department of Justice
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have given high priority to odious forms

crimes a high priority. Strong efforts are being made by the Department of Justice, the FBI, and federal law enforcement in general to counter this growing criminal activity. Moreover, since bigotry often stems from ignorance, providing our young people with a first-class education is an important way of combatting bigotry and the hate crimes that it can breed. I am committed to seeing that every young person in America has the opportunity to receive a first-class education, and last year I proposed a major overhaul of our educational system to ensure that they would have that chance.

4. What action would you take to resolve the 1985 murder of ADC West Coast Regional Director Alex Odeh?

President Bush's Answer: Mr. Odeh's tragic murder is currently under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. That investigation has my full support; let us all hope that the FBI is successful.

5. Should race and/or ethnicity be used as criteria by any law enforcement agency to determine which persons are to be questioned in connection with its investigations?

facts and circumstances of certain cases

President Bush's Answer: I do not believe any law enforcement agency should target specific racial or ethnic groups for the investigation of a particular case. However, *the* certain circumstances or events may cause the investigators to focus on one particular racial or ethnic group. Often, the FBI requires the assistance of citizens who understand or have contact with other cultures.

given the circumstances of specific cases

6. What steps would you take to curtail infringements on constitutional rights and to guarantee and enforce First Amendment and civil rights protections for U.S. citizens, including Arab-Americans?

President Bush's Answer: I strongly support vigorous enforcement of all our civil rights laws. Moreover, I was pleased to sign into law both the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. These laws, however, are only the first step toward a new era of harmony and shared purpose. The American dream rests on the vision of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and in the shared ideals of decency, fairness, faith, hard work, and generosity. I believe in an America that is free of racism and bigotry. This Administration's agenda for the

next American century, whether it be guaranteeing equal protection under the law, promoting excellence in education or creating jobs, will ensure for generations to come that America remains the beacon of opportunity in the world.

II. Immigration

7. Are non-citizen visitors and permanent residents of the United States entitled to the same Bill of Rights protections that apply to citizens?

President Bush's Answer: Yes, as far as due process is concerned.

8. Do you support administrative or judicial appeal in visa cases?

President Bush's Answer: Presently, one cannot appeal a denial of an application for a visa. This Administration is opposed to any change in this law.

9. Should aliens, who are otherwise eligible to enter or remain in the United States, be excluded or deported from the U.S. because of their political views?

President Bush's Answer: Generally, no. I was pleased to sign into law the Immigration Act of 1990, the first major overhaul of our Nation's immigration laws in a quarter of a century. Among the provisions in the new act is a section barring, in most instances, the exclusion of an individual from the United States solely because of that person's political views, if such views would be lawful in the United States, with certain exceptions.

III. Human Rights

10. What policies would you initiate to secure basic human rights for Palestinians living under military occupation?

President Bush's Answer: The State Department's Human Rights Report for 1991 contains a comprehensive analysis of the human rights situation in the occupied territories. The United States considers Israel's occupation of these territories to be governed by the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War. We have raised the treatment of Palestinians living in these

territories with the Israeli government directly and are working with that government to see that conditions improve. The Middle East peace process launched in Madrid provides for direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis to realize both security for Israel and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

11. Based on Israel's continued violation of human rights conventions and international law, would you implement a review of U.S.- Israel aid and trade relations as is required by U.S. law, including the Foreign Assistance Act?

President Bush's Answer: Human rights is a fundamental part of my administration's foreign policy. The human rights situation in the occupied territories is a matter of continuing high-level concern. Our response is designed both to protect human rights in the near term and to promote the peace process.

12. Do you support Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees?

a. Would you make your support contingent on a complete freeze on all Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights?

b. What budgetary sacrifices do you believe Israel should make before the U.S. continues to provide such extraordinary levels of aid?

c. Do you support similar loan guarantees for general obligation bonds of U.S. states, municipalities, school districts, and other tax levying entities, as called for in H.R. 355?

d. Would you support a strong audit requirement to ensure that Israel does not use funds freed from its other pressing needs by these loan guarantees to fuel settlement activity in the occupied territories?

President Bush's Answer: Secretary of State Baker is now discussing with the Israeli government terms and conditions under which this Administration could support additional loan guarantees for Israel. I am committed to the principal of free immigration to Israel and their successful absorption inside Israel. At the same time, ~~I am firmly opposed to the settlement of those immigrants or other Israelis in the occupied territories, something~~

we believe constitutes an obstacle to peace. We want to resolve this issue in a manner that supports, and does not contradict, longstanding U.S. policy objectives in the region.

13. Do you support Palestinian self-determination and statehood?

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President Bush's Answer: We do not support the establishment of a Palestine state, but we do support the Palestinian people realizing their legitimate political rights in a context that assures Israel's security. This Administration has launched a process designed to bring comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors, including the Palestinians. We believe that such a peace should be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.

14. Do you support the lifting of international sanctions imposed on Iraqi trade in non-military goods in order to allow essential imports to alleviate problems of malnutrition and illness among the Iraqi civilian population?

a. Do you support the lifting of the freeze on that portion of Iraq's assets frozen in the United States that would pay for these supplies?

President Bush's Answer: I am very concerned that the policies of Saddam Hussein, including his failure to comply with relevant UN Security Council resolutions, entails continuing hardship for the Iraqi people. I am particularly concerned by the internal embargoes which the current regime has applied to northern Iraq and areas of the south which are designed to deprive civilian populations of food, medicine, fuel, and other essential supplies.

The current United Nations sanctions do not preclude shipments of food and medicine to Iraq. Moreover, the UN Security Council has adopted resolutions 706 and 712 which provide mechanisms by which the Iraqi government can export oil to finance additional humanitarian purchases. To date, the Iraqi government has refused to accept these resolutions.

I believe that there is now growing dissent in Iraq, and the Iraqi people are tired of Saddam Hussein. They are fed up with the diversion of needed food and medicine to the Republican Guard and the ruling elite. Together with our coalition partners, we will keep the pressure on the regime until a new leadership emerges, one

that stands ready to live in peace with its people and its neighbors.

IV. Foreign Policy

15. Would you maintain the United States Embassy to Israel in Tel Aviv, as opposed to relocating the Embassy to Jerusalem?

President Bush's Answer: The United States will continue to maintain its Embassy to Israel in Tel Aviv.

16. Do you support lifting the ban on travel to Lebanon and the re-opening of the United States Consulate there?

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President Bush's Answer: *If does appear that* *one source get improved* *now*
~~I note with satisfaction the improved prospects for stability now emerging in Lebanon~~ after a decade and a half of civil war. However, even though all the remaining American hostages have been released, the organizations which abducted them continue to operate within the country. The situation in Lebanon is still so dangerous that no U.S. citizen can be considered safe from terrorist acts. Accordingly, the Department of State advises U.S. citizens to avoid all travel in, to, or through Lebanon. The Embassy in Beirut is not fully staffed and personnel remain there under extraordinarily tight security. Due to the limited staff and security constraints, the Embassy is unable to perform consular functions. This Administration will support removal of the ban on travel to Lebanon and the resumption of consular functions only when it is safe to do so.

17. What action would you take to enforce United Nations Resolution 425 calling for Israel's immediate withdrawal from Lebanon?

President Bush's Answer: The current bilateral peace talks between Israel and Lebanon provide the best opportunity to achieve implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. The United States supports the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces. At the same time, we believe the security of southern Lebanon and northern Israel must be assured.

18. Do you support additional aid to Lebanon?

President Bush's Answer: In my budget for 1993 I proposed a \$28 million aid package to Lebanon to be used for food, economic

development and education. The United States also actively supports international efforts to reconstruct Lebanon.

19. Do you support Syria's efforts to negotiate the restoration of her national borders by ending Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights?

President Bush's Answer: One of my proudest achievements as President is helping launch the Middle East peace talks aimed at a comprehensive peace. After more than forty years, Syria and Israel are sitting across the table from each other and talking. Secretary of State James Baker and I worked long and hard to achieve this historic breakthrough, and we will continue to act as a catalyst and honest brokers in moving the talks forward. We believe that peace in this region should be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace.

20. Would you support an increase in aid for poorer Arab countries, even if this meant a decrease in aid to Israel?

President Bush's Answer: This Administration supports the development of economic cooperation among the countries of the Middle East on the basis of liberal policies designed to encourage the repatriation of capital, increased investment, and the removal of barriers to trade. While the United States is willing to help the less developed Arab countries, regional solutions are needed. I believe that such policies should be accompanied by comprehensive long-term efforts to increase stability for the Middle East. I am hopeful that the multilateral phase of the peace process can facilitate this aim.

21. What steps would you take to ensure that Israel, like other U.S. allies, becomes a signatory to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons?

President Bush's Answer: U.S. support for universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is well established. Consistent with this aim, in the aftermath of our victory in the Gulf war I launched a comprehensive arms control initiative designed to address the proliferation challenge in the volatile Middle East region. That initiative included as an interim measure a call for freezing the production of weapons-grade nuclear material and an ultimate goal of making the Middle East a region free of nuclear and other unconventional weapons.

Middle East arms control questions will continue to be addressed both in meetings pursuant to my initiative as well as in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.