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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

0541

January 25, 1992

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANDREW CARD

FROM:

WILLIAM SITTMANN

KJH for

SUBJECT:

Questions Posed by Trude Feldman

Attached are the answers to written questions submitted by Trude Feldman that the President agreed to do.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

0541

January 24, 1992

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM SITTMANN

FROM: RICHARD N. HAASS 

SUBJECT: Questions Posed by Trude Feldman

The President agreed to answer written questions posed by Trude Feldman. Andy Card passed these along and asked for a quick turnaround.

Concurrence by: Roman Popadiuk ^{not} 

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the attached answers to Andy Card.

Attachments

Tab A Answers to Trude Feldman

1. A year later, what are your newest reflections on the Gulf war?

I am more certain than ever that we--America and the coalition--did the right thing. A tyrant who threatened world peace and the world economy was forced to retreat. Kuwait is liberated and on the road to free elections in October. The oil fires set by Saddam's defeated army have been extinguished. His arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, has been significantly damaged and what remains is under UN scrutiny. We will not relax our vigil to destroy that arsenal in accordance with UN resolutions. The Gulf--an area that is vital to our economic well being--is secure from political and economic blackmail.

The results go beyond the Gulf, however. Our strength and resolve have sent a message everywhere. In the Middle East, thanks in large part to our efforts, direct peace talks between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors have begun for the first time ever. Multilateral negotiations on arms control, economic cooperation and other issues have begun. America's hostages in Lebanon are home.

We fought a limited war for a vital purpose. We prevailed. Saddam is weak and on the defensive at home and in the region. We will stand by our determination to maintain UN sanctions and inspections and to keep Iraq isolated until the Iraqi people and army free themselves of this dictator. We will be ready to be a partner with a new leadership in Baghdad that accepts the UN resolutions and is ready to live at peace with Iraq's neighbors and the Iraqi people.

2. Now that the hostages are released, what are the prospects for improved relations with Iran?

The release of these brave men and the return of the remains of two American heroes, Bill Buckley and Rich Higgins, is a testament to the correctness of the policy of not bargaining with terrorists. Our firm stand on that principle and the strength we demonstrated in Desert Storm were the two keys to the hostages release.

We are pleased that Iran used its influence constructively on this matter in the last few months. Nonetheless, we remain deeply troubled by other aspects of Iranian policy including continued support for terrorism and its opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace process. That said, we recognize that Iran has an important role to play in the Gulf and we are open to talks with the leadership in Tehran on the issues that divide our two countries.

3. What effect will the dissolution of the Soviet Union have on the security and stability of the Mideast and on U.S. national interests in the region?

The USSR played an important and useful role in the Gulf crisis, in trying to end the war in Afghanistan, and in opening the way for Arab-Israeli negotiations. We have been pleased to work with the Soviet leadership on these and other issues. The new leadership in Russia has assured us of their determination to continue this constructive role and has underscored that determination by joining us in ending arms supplies to the Afghan parties and by hosting the Moscow multilateral talks on Arab-Israeli peace. I am confident that this spirit of cooperation will continue to help improve the prospects for stability in the region.

4. What chances does Lebanon have in 1992 to restore its full independence and sovereignty?

The United States firmly supports Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity as well as the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. As a result of the Ta'if process, significant progress has been made toward restoring stability and extending central government authority. We expect that all parties will continue to implement the provisions of the Ta'if accords, including withdrawal of Syrian forces to the Beka'a valley in September. As a separate matter, we also support implementation of UNSC resolution 425, including the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon, and believe the current bilateral negotiations between Lebanon and Israel can be helpful in assuring Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as Israel's and Lebanon's right to a secure border.

5. What is your reaction to Israeli deportation of Palestinians and the Palestine boycott?

The United States has long opposed deportations from the occupied territories as inconsistent with Israeli obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, and we have consistently voted for resolutions of disapproval in the U.N. Security Council. We also oppose the Arab boycott of Israel. We believe the Middle East peace process provides the parties to the dispute an effective vehicle to negotiate directly their differences. We have also asked the parties to avoid unilateral statements or actions which impede that process, but rather to take steps which will improve the atmosphere for negotiations.

6. What is your reaction to the rise of Moslem fundamentalism in the Mideast?

The United States maintains good relations with the vast majority of Muslim countries and has been able to cooperate effectively with their governments. There are also many Muslims in this country who are active in civic and foreign affairs. We do have differences with political movements when they seek to use Islam as a political banner to justify intolerance, the abridgement of fundamental human rights, or interference in the affairs of others.

7. What must (or should) Israel do now to win your support for its requested loan guarantees?

The United States supports Jewish emigration from the former Soviet Union to Israel and is committed to trying to find terms and conditions under which it could support Israel's request for loan guarantees and, at the same time, promote the prospects of peace between Israel and her neighbors. Settlements in the occupied territories are obviously a question of intense concern to many parties in the Middle East, and we have consistently opposed them as obstacles to peace. The Government of Israel is well aware of our views.

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: *[Signature]*

LOG # 0541

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Bill Sittmann	_____	_____	_____
Jon Howe	_____	_____	_____
Brent Scowcroft	_____	_____	_____
Bill Sittmann	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>MM 1/25</u>	<u>D</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>NIR</u>
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cc: VP Skinner Other _____

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COMMENTS

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9200541

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001 SITTMANN
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CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 92012420 FOR SIGNATURE
X 92012708 HILL SGD MEMO

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NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9200541
RECEIVED: 24 JAN 92 17

TO: CARD, A

FROM: SITTMANN

DOC DATE: 25 JAN 92
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: PERSIAN GULF
ISRAEL
KUWAIT

DESERT STORM
IRAQ
Q+A

PERSONS: FELDMAN, TRUDE

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS POSED BY FELDMAN RE MIDDLE EAST

ACTION: HILL SGD MEMO

DUE DATE: 28 JAN 92

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HAASS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
EXECSEC
HAASS

COMMENTS: _____

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OPENED BY: NSWEA

CLOSED BY: NSALW

DOC 2 OF 2

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