

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	re: Schedule for the Visit of the President and the First Lady to the Middle East October 25-29, 1994 [partial] (1 page)	10/28	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20042

FOLDER TITLE:

Mid East

2013-0534-S

rc1578

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

file

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 24, 1994

MEMORANDUM TO STAFF

FROM: OFFICE OF SCHEDULING AND ADVANCE

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Enclosed is the schedule of the President's trip to the Middle East, October 24 - October 29, 1994.

The next schedule distribution will be Saturday, October 29, 1994.

**SCHEDULE FOR THE VISIT
OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE FIRST LADY TO THE MIDDLE EAST**

Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Israel, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

October 25-29, 1994

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

7:30 am		DEPARTURE STATEMENT ROSE GARDEN Remarks: Don Baer Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL PRESS
7:50 am		THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart White House via motorcade en route Reflecting Pool [drive time: 5 minutes]
7:55 am		THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Reflecting Pool
8:05 am		THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Reflecting Pool via Marine One en route Andrews Air Force Base [flight time: 10 minutes]
8:15 am		THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Andrews Air Force Base
8:30 am	EDT	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Andrews Air Force Base via Air Force One en route Cairo International Airport, Cairo, Egypt [flight time: 10 hours 30 min.] [time change: + 6 hours]
9:00 am		SIGN BILLS ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE Staff Contact: John Podesta
9:15 am		BRIEFING ON TRIP SCHEDULE ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
10:00 am		TRIP BRIEFING ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
11:30 am		READ SPEECHES ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

12:30 pm	LUNCH/PHONE AND OFFICE TIME ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE
1:15 pm	SPEECH/PREP ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE Staff Contact: Don Baer, Anthony Lake
2:30 pm	PHONE AND OFFICE TIME ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE
4:00 pm	VISIT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE
4:30 pm	DOWN TIME ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE
1:00 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Cairo International Airport OPEN PRESS
1:05 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Cairo International Airport via motorcade en route Tomb of the Unknown Soldier/Tomb of Anwar Sadat [drive time: 10 minutes]
1:15 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Tomb of the Unknown Soldier/Tomb of Anwar Sadat
1:15 am- 1:30 am (7:15pm-7:30 pm EDT)	WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER/TOMB OF ANWAR SADAT TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER/TOMB OF ANWAR SADAT Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL PRESS
1:30 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Tomb of the Unknown Soldier/Tomb of Anwar Sadat via motorcade en route Qubba Palace [drive time: 10 minutes]
1:40 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Qubba Palace
BC AND HRC RON	QUBBA PALACE CAIRO, EGYPT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:30 am- 7:45 am	BRIEFING PRESIDENTIAL SUITE Qubba Palace Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
7:50 am- 8:05 am	ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK PRESIDENT'S LIBRARY Qubba Palace Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL SPRAY
8:05 am- 8:40 am	EXPANDED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK BREAKFAST ROOM Qubba Palace Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL SPRAY
8:45 am- 9:10 am	EXPANDED MEETING WITH PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT PRESIDENT'S SALON Qubba Palace Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL SPRAY
9:15 am- 9:30 am	BRIEFING ROOM TBA Qubba Palace Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
9:30 am- 10:00 am (3:30 am-4:00 am EDT)	PRESS AVAILABILITY WITH PRESIDENT MUBARAK ROOM TBA Qubba Palace Remarks: Tony Blinken Staff Contact: Anthony Lake EXPANDED POOL PRESS
10:15 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Qubba Palace via motorcade en route Cairo International Airport [drive time: 10 minutes]
10:25 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Cairo International Airport
10:40 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Cairo International Airport via Air Force One en route Aqaba International Airport, Aqaba, Jordan [fight time: 50 Min.]

11:30 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Aqaba International Airport ARRIVAL CEREMONY TARMAC Aqaba International Airport Staff Contact: Anthony Lake OPEN PRESS
11:50 am	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Aqaba International Airport via motorcade en route Aqaba Royal Palace [drive time: 20 minutes]
12:10 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Aqaba Royal Palace
12:15 pm- 12:30 pm	HOLD AQABA ROYAL PALACE
12:35 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Aqaba Royal Palace via motorcade en route Wadi Araba Crossing (border between Aqaba, Jordan and Eilat, Israel) [drive time: 15 minutes]
12:50 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Wadi Araba Crossing and proceed to the VIP tent
1:00 pm- 2:00 pm (7:00am-8:00am EDT)	ISRAEL-JORDAN PEACE TREATY SIGNING WADI ARABA CROSSING Remarks: Bob Boorstin Staff Contact: Anthony Lake OPEN PRESS
2:00 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Wadi Araba Crossing via motorcade en route Aqaba Royal Palace [drive time: 15 minutes]
2:15 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Aqaba Royal Palace and are greeted by His Majesty King Hussein.
2:30 pm- 3:30 pm (8:30am-9:30am EDT)	TRILATERAL LUNCHEON AQABA ROYAL PALACE Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL PRESS SPRAY at beginning of lunch SPOUSES LUNCHEON AQABA ROYAL PALACE

3:35 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Aqaba Royal Palace en route Aqaba International Airport [drive time: 20 minutes]
3:55 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Aqaba International Airport
4:05 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Aqaba International Airport via Air Force One en route Amman Queen Alia Airport, Amman, Jordan [flight time: 50 minutes]
4:55 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Amman Queen Alia Airport
5:15 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Amman Queen Alia Airport via motorcade en route Hashimiyah Palace [drive time: 30 minutes]
5:45 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Hashimiyah Palace
5:45 pm- 7:25 pm	SPEECH PREP/BRIEFING HASHIMIYAH PALACE Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
7:25 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Hashimiyah Palace via motorcade en route Parliament [drive time: 20 minutes]
7:45 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Parliament.
7:45 pm- 8:00 pm	WELCOMING CEREMONY PARLIAMENT Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL PRESS
8:00 pm- 9:00 pm (2:00pm-3:00pm EDT)	ADDRESS JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT PARLIAMENT Remarks: Bob Boorstin, Tony Blinken Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL PRESS
9:00 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Parliament via motorcade en route Nadwa Palace [drive time: 15 minutes]
9:15 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Nadwa Palace POOL PRESS

9:30 pm-
11:00 pm
(3:30pm-5:00pm EDT)

DINNER WITH KING HUSSEIN AND QUEEN NOOR
NADWA PALACE
Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
OFFICIAL PHOTO

11:00 pm

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Nadwa Palace via motorcade en route Hashimiyah Palace
[drive time: 30 minutes]

11:30 pm

THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Hashimiyah Palace

BC AND HRC RON

HASHIMIYAH PALACE
AMMAN, JORDAN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

6:15 am

THE PRESIDENT departs Palace via motorcade en route Amman Queen Alia Airport
[drive time: 30 minutes]

6:45 am

THE PRESIDENT arrives Amman Queen Alia Airport and proceeds to the Royal Lounge for brief hold

DEPARTURE
TARMAC
Amman Queen Alia Airport
Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
OPEN PRESS

7:15 am

THE PRESIDENT departs Amman Queen Alia Airport via Air Force One en route airport, Damascus
[flight time: 55 minutes]

8:10 am

THE PRESIDENT arrives airport, Damascus

8:20 am
(2:20am EDT)

BRIEF CEREMONY
TARMAC
airport, Damascus
Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
PRESS??

8:35 am

THE PRESIDENT departs airport, Damascus via motorcade en route Palace
[drive time: 30 minutes]

9:05 am

THE PRESIDENT arrives Palace

9:15 am	THE PRESIDENT proceeds to Reception Room POOL SPRAY
9:15 am- 11:15 am	MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD ROOM TBA Palace Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL SPRAY
11:15 am- 11:45 am	ONE-ON-ONE MEETING RECEPTION ROOM Palace Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
11:45 am- 12:00 pm	BRIEFING ROOM TBA Palace Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
12:00 pm- 12:30 pm	PRESS CONFERENCE SITE TBA Palace Remarks: Bob Boorstin Staff Contact: Dee Dee Myers OPEN PRESS
12:30 pm	THE PRESIDENT departs Palace via motorcade en route airport, Damascus [drive time: 30 minutes]
1:00 pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives airport, Damascus
1:00 pm- 1:10 pm	DEPARTURE CEREMONY TARMAC airport, Damascus Staff Contact: Anthony Lake PRESS??
1:30 pm	THE PRESIDENT departs airport, Damascus via Air Force One en route Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel [flight time: 1 hour, 25 minutes]
3:00 pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv Gurion
3:00 pm- 3:30 pm	WELCOME CEREMONY (15 minutes) TARMAC Ben Gurion Airport OPEN PRESS

3:30 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart airport via motorcade en route King David Hotel, Jerusalem [drive time: 40 minutes]
4:10 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive King David Hotel
4:10 pm- 5:30 pm	SPEECH PREP/BRIEFING PRESIDENTIAL SUITE King David Hotel Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
5:30 pm- 6:40 pm	DOWN TIME/DINNER PRESIDENTIAL SUITE King David Hotel
6:45 pm- 7:15 pm	MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN ROOM 622 King David Hotel Staff Contact: Anthony Lake OFFICIAL PHOTO
7:30 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart King David Hotel via motorcade en route Knesset [drive time: 10 minutes]
7:40 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Knesset
7:45 pm- 7:55 pm	WREATH LAYING CEREMONY ETERNAL FLAME Knesset Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL PRESS
8:00 pm	PHOTO WITH BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, OPPOSITION LEADER ROOM TBA Knesset Staff Contact: Anthony Lake OFFICIAL PHOTO
8:10 pm- 9:10 pm	ADDRESS KNESSET KNESSET CHAMBER Knesset Remarks: Daniel Benjamin Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL PRESS

9:20 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Knesset via motorcade en route Convention Center [drive time: 10 minutes]
9:25 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive Convention Center
9:30 pm- 9:45 pm	BRIEFING/MAKEUP ROOM 115 Convention Center Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
9:45 pm- 10:15 pm	JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE CONVENTION CENTER Remarks: Daniel Benjamin Staff Contact: Anthony Lake OPEN PRESS
10:25 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady depart Convention Center via motorcade en route King David Hotel [drive time: 15 minutes]
10:40 pm	THE PRESIDENT and the First Lady arrive King David Hotel
BC RON	KING DAVID HOTEL JERUSALEM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

7:25 am	THE PRESIDENT departs King David Hotel via motorcade en route President's Residence [drive time: 5 minutes]
7:30 am	THE PRESIDENT arrives President's Residence
7:30 am- 8:00 am	BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT WEIZMAN PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE OFFICIAL PHOTO
8:05 am	THE PRESIDENT departs breakfast site via motorcade en route Yad Vashem [drive time: 10 minutes]
8:15 am	THE PRESIDENT arrives Yad Vashem
8:15 am- 9:00 am	VISIT YAD VASHEM Staff Contact: Anthony Lake PREPOSITIONED POOL PRESS

9:05 am	THE PRESIDENT departs Yad Vashem via motorcade en route Landing Zone [drive time: 35 minutes]
9:40 am	THE PRESIDENT arrives Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion
9:40 am- 10:00 am	AIRPORT DEPARTURE TARMAC Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel Staff Contact: Tony Lake OPEN PRESS
10:00 am	THE PRESIDENT departs Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion via Air Force One en route Kuwait International Airport [flight time: 3 hours, 15 minutes] [time change: EDT + 7 hours]
	BRIEFING TIME (1 hour) ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
2:15 pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives Kuwait International Airport
2:20 pm- 2:45 pm	ARRIVAL CEREMONY TARMAC Kuwait International Airport Staff Contact: Anthony Lake OPEN PRESS
2:45 pm- 2:55 pm	HOLD AMIRIT PAVILION Kuwait International Airport
2:55 pm	THE PRESIDENT departs Kuwait International Airport via Marine One en route Tactical Assembly Area Liberty [flight time: 20 minutes]
3:05 pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives TAA Liberty
3:10 pm- 3:30 pm	ADDRESS TROOPS TAA LIBERTY Remarks: Tony Blinken Staff Contact: Anthony Lake OPEN PRESS
3:35 pm- 4:20 pm	VISIT WITH TROOPS TAA LIBERTY Staff Contact: Anthony Lake OPEN PRESS

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20042

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Mid East

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4:20 pm- **VIEWS MILITARY EQUIPMENT**
4:30 pm **TAA LIBERTY**
Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
PRESS??

4:30 pm- **BRIEFING WITH COALITION COMMANDERS**
4:45 pm **TENT**
Staff Contact: Anthony Lake
CLOSED PRESS

4:45 pm **THE PRESIDENT** proceeds to Hold

4:45 pm- **HOLD**
5:00 pm **TENT**

5:00 pm- **RADIO ADDRESS TAPING**
5:15 pm **TENT**
Remarks: Bob Boorstin, Tony Blinken, Don Baer
Staff Contact: Richard Strauss

5:20 pm **THE PRESIDENT** proceeds to Marine One

5:30 pm **THE PRESIDENT** departs Landing Zone via Marine One en route
Landing Zone
[flight time: 15 minutes]

5:45 pm **THE PRESIDENT** arrives Landing Zone

5:55 pm **THE PRESIDENT** departs Landing Zone via motorcade en route
Bayan Place
[drive time: 5 minutes]

6:00 pm **THE PRESIDENT** arrives Bayan Palace

6:05 pm- **HOLD** (b)(6) [001]
6:30 pm **KADHIMAH BUILDING 2, 3RD FLOOR**
Bayan Palace

6:30 pm **THE PRESIDENT** proceeds to tent

6:35 pm- **PRESENTATION OF MUBARAK MEDAL**
6:50 pm **AMIRI LOUNGE**
Bayan Palace
Remarks:
Staff Contact:
POOL SPRAY

6:50 pm-	MEETING WITH AMIR JABER OF KUWAIT
7:20 pm	AMIRI LOUNGE Bayan Palace Staff Contact: Tony Lake
7:25 pm	THE PRESIDENT departs Bayan Palace via motorcade en route Kuwait International Airport [drive time: 10 minutes]
7:35 pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives Airport
7:35 pm	THE PRESIDENT proceeds to Air Force One with Crown Prince Saad Abdullah Al-Sabah
7:45 pm	THE PRESIDENT departs airport via Air Force One en route King Khalid Military City [flight time: 50 minutes]
8:50 pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives King Khalid Military City
tba	THE PRESIDENT departs airport via motorcade en route meeting site [drive time:]
9:15 pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives meeting site
9:15 pm-	MEETING WITH KING FAHD
10:45 pm	SITE TBA Staff Contact: Anthony Lake POOL SPRAY
10:45 pm	THE PRESIDENT departs meeting site via motorcade en route airport [drive time: 15 minutes]
11:00 pm	THE PRESIDENT arrives airport
11:15 pm	THE PRESIDENT departs airport via Air Force One en route Andrews Air Force Base [flight time: 14 hours, 5 minutes] [time change: - 7 hours]
BC RON	AIR FORCE ONE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

6:20 am	EDT	THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews Air Force Base
6:35 am		THE PRESIDENT departs Andrews Air Force Base via Marine One en route Reflecting Pool [flight time: 10 minutes]
6:45 am		THE PRESIDENT arrives Reflecting Pool
6:55 am		THE PRESIDENT departs Reflecting Pool via motorcade en route White House [drive time: 5 minutes]
7:00 am		THE PRESIDENT arrives White House

LETTY COTTIN POGREBIN

33 WEST 67TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023
PHONE (212) 873-1460
FAX (212) 787-5733

file Middle East

October 31, 1994

To: Milan Verveer

7806

456-6466

Color, human interest, anecdotes continued...

Item: In the pre-dawn hours before the trip to Damascus, Senator Leahy ordered room service. The waiter who delivered his coffee said, "I'm so grateful to your President for what he said about my religion." ("We respect Islam.")

Item: Mary Rose Oaker said of the special side trip she went on with the President to Damascus: "President Assad is a notorious bad guy but the people of Syria are regular people who want what everyone wants: food on the table, good jobs, safety for their children, and peace. Many of them are quite broad-minded -- underground intellectuals, artists, and such -- and it gives them confidence when the leader of the world speaks out for peace as President Clinton did in Damascus."

Item: Joan Campbell was struck by the fact that Jordan's Queen Noor and First Lady Hillary Clinton presented to the world very positive models of self-actualized women and partnership marriages. "The President and the King have strong wives in common," said Campbell. "Neither woman is an appendage of her husband. (And Queen Noor is even taller than the King.)"

Item: "The peace between Jordan and Israel would never have happened without those particular men on that stage in Aqaba," said Governor Bruce Sundlun of Rhode Island. "Netanyahu, Bush, and some other monarch couldn't have done what Clinton, Rabin, Peres and Hussein accomplished. It was the perfect mix of men for this moment in history."

Item: The Rev. Dr. Otis, Moss, Jr. said he saw an invisible presence on the platform with those who signed the treaty: "I saw Menachim Begin," said Moss. "I saw Anwar Sadat. I saw Yasir Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin as they appeared last year on the White House lawn. I saw them all standing in the hand of God."

Rev. Moss also made the point that the struggle for peace is always harder than going to war, but the dividends are so much greater. He said of our delegation: "What if we had come to this desert to fight? What would be our legacy? What would be our mark on history this October 26th? Instead, we have come as ambassadors of peace. I kept repeating to myself the words from Isaiah that President Clinton quoted:

Let the wilderness and the thirsty land be glad,

2

let the desert rejoice and burst into flower."

Item: Jews and Arabs weren't the only ones reaching across religious boundaries. Rev. Otis Moss, Jr., a Black Baptist, and Dr. Mian Mohammad Ashraf, President of the Islamic Center of New England, resolved to get together in the future to talk about their two faith traditions in some ongoing joint forum. "Dr. Ashraf helped me see that most Americans reached conclusions about the Muslim faith based on ignorance," said Rev. Moss. "It's important for us not to confuse the Nation of Islam with the Islamic faith."

Rev. Moss also said he had an enlightening conversation when he asked Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, why the Wailing Wall was now called the Western Wall. "Rabbi Schorsch told me that the Jews should not remain in a perpetual state of wailing or leave a legacy of wailing. Changing the name signified that the wailing had come to end and the Wall had become a place of spirituality, prayer and hope."

Item: Several of us Presidential Guests felt we were making history on two levels -- by witnessing a peace signing, and by making peace on a person-to-person basis. For instance, Lynn Lyss, Chair of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said: "This was my first opportunity at intense exposure to Arabs. Talking to one another about our work and families helped reduce the sense of Otherness that I'd felt about them. Personal talk humanizes the Other. It lets you put aside old baggage. It left me with the impression that though we have our differences, we have one thing in common: our desire for peace."

Item: My seat-mate on Plane 1 was Omar Kader, a Palestinian-American born in Utah, and now living in the Washington, D.C. area. Because there were so many hours of travel, and because we didn't get much sleep, Omar and I talked almost non-stop for some 30 hours. (There were seven legs of our journey over all.) As a result, we know more about each other than do most people who've known one another for years. We mined the details of where and how we grew up, our parents' attitudes toward life and the Jewish-Arab conflict, how we met and married our spouses, his experiences as a Muslim convert to Mormonism, my experiences as a newly re-awakened Jew, his efforts to convince Yasir Arafat and others to negotiate with Israel as long as 10 years ago (he also tried to convince Arafat to embrace Gandhian non-violence instead of armed resistance), my efforts to bring the Peace Now message into the mainstream of the Jewish world, his academic career, my writing career, and so on.

Beyond the biographical material, we shared with each other our greatest agony, our greatest ecstasy, our major fears, our favorite writers, our most deeply held political dreams.

I think Omar Kader and I would both agree -- as would several other pairs of seat-mates on this trip -- that our friendship is one of the most valuable by-products of this White House mission. Politics is personal after all.

Item: Unofficial rankings on Plane 1:

Most gregarious -- Lynn Lyss
Least gregarious -- Mort Zuckerman
Soundest sleeper -- Larry Tisch (the flight attendant had to practically pummel him to get him up for landings).
Runner-up sound sleeper -- Governor Bruce Sundlun
Best outfit -- Victor Kovner's white linen suit and matching straw hat worn to the signing.
Most patient -- Mel French
Most enthusiastic -- Leo O'Donovan
Most generous -- Hillary Rodham Clinton

Item: In Aqaba, on a sort of bedsheet banner stretched across the road outside our hotel, these words had been hand-painted:
WITH HEARTS FILLED WITH PEACE WE SHALL SIGN THE PEACE TREATY.

Item: In Amman, as we made our way to our seats in the balcony of the parliament, many Jordanians smiled at us and said, "Thank you for your help." Or "Please thank your president for helping us make peace." Or, "We appreciate your president for coming."
(Incidentally, smoking is permitted in the parliament chamber, a very odd sight.)

Item: At the lunch given in Hillary's honor, Leah Rabin introduced some of the more prominent guests. "And this is the former wife of President Herzog," she said. Everyone laughed. What she meant to say was, "this is the wife of former President Herzog."

Item: Mrs. Rabin told of two moments from the ceremony in the desert that will stand out in her memory: First, when the Israeli army played "Hatikva," (Israel's national anthem which means "Hope") "I thought about all the generations of Jews who never lost hope," she said. And secondly, when the balloons were set off at the end of the ceremonies -- "They were so strong and so colorful," she said. "We all wanted to go into the air with them."

Item: When President Clinton got sand in his eyes and rubbed them with visible discomfort, the Israeli press sang together under their breaths: "It's my party, and I'll cry if I want to."

Item: When the army bands were playing the three national anthems, an Israeli radio reporter who had been giving the color report, signaled his producer to take him off the air for a few minutes because he had to compose himself.

Item: Era Mann, the grandmother of the Israeli girl who gave the King the bouquet of flowers (wife of the grandfather slain in the 1967 War), said: "When I saw my grand-daughter up there with the King of Jordan, the pain subsided, and for the first time, I felt hope."

Item: Unlike what Americans are accustomed to, the shouts heard from the audience during the ceremonies were not protests but

rather were the words of a cheer "Kefak Hey," which means Hip Hip Hooray. The cheer was shouted in unison by Israeli and Jordanian high school students who were seated together in the bleachers.

Item: The Waxmans -- parents of the Corporal who'd been kidnapped and killed the previous week by Hamas -- were sitting in the balcony of the Knesset just to the left of our section. One by one, members of our delegation went over to them to offer words of condolence, and I noticed that, one by one, everyone left their presence wiping away tears.

The President, in his speech to the Knesset, made reference to Corp. Waxman as "a son of your nation and I proudly say, a citizen of ours." Supposedly, someone from the White House staff arranged for the Waxmans to meet the President at the end of the session. Did this actually happen?

Item: Israelis got a great kick out of the President's Hebrew pronunciations -- kin-esset for Knesset -- and his valiant effort to say the words Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

*cc: Melanne
file mosque*

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 19, 1996

Dr. Robert Schuller
The Crystal Cathedral
12141 Lewis Street
Garden Grove, California 92640

Dear Dr. Schuller:

Thank you for your thoughtful note following our Eid al-Fitr reception at the White House. I appreciate your expression of support for our efforts to promote religious tolerance and to celebrate what is common among different faiths. I hope my letter finds you well and I look forward to seeing you soon.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Hillary Rodham Clinton



ROBERT SCHULLER

March 21, 1996

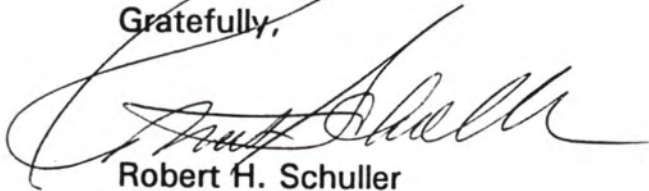
Dear Hillary,

I just read the good news!

That you welcomed adherence of Islam to the White House for a religious event.

I am very much into the movement of Christians and Muslims working together in a coalition instead of a collision. Let me know if I can ever help.

Gratefully,



Robert H. Schuller

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Old Executive Office Building
Room 100
Washington, DC 20505

RHS/bae

cc/Melanne

THE CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL
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file Middle East trip

October 31, 1994

To: Milan Verveer ⁷⁸⁰⁶ 456-~~6466~~

Color, human interest, anecdotes, continued...

Item: In the pre-dawn hours before the trip to Damascus, Senator Leahy ordered room service. The waiter who delivered his coffee said, "I'm so grateful to your President for what he said about my religion." ("We respect Islam.")

Item: Mary Rose Oaker said of the special side trip she went on with the President to Damascus: "President Assad is a notorious bad guy but the people of Syria are regular people who want what everyone wants: food on the table, good jobs, safety for their children, and peace. Many of them are quite broad-minded -- underground intellectuals, artists, and such -- and it gives them confidence when the leader of the world speaks out for peace as President Clinton did in Damascus."

Item: Joan Campbell was struck by the fact that Jordan's Queen Noor and First Lady Hillary Clinton presented to the world very positive models of self-actualized women and partnership marriages. "The President and the King have strong wives in common," said Campbell. "Neither woman is an appendage of her husband. (And Queen Noor is even taller than the King.)"

Item: "The peace between Jordan and Israel would never have happened without those particular men on that stage in Aqaba," said Governor Bruce Sundlun of Rhode Island. "Netanyahu, Bush, and some other monarch couldn't have done what Clinton, Rabin, Peres and Hussein accomplished. It was the perfect mix of men for this moment in history."

Item: The Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. said he saw an invisible presence on the platform with those who signed the treaty: "I saw Menachim Begin," said Moss. "I saw Anwar Sadat. I saw Yasir Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin as they appeared last year on the White House lawn. I saw them all standing in the hand of God."

Rev. Moss also made the point that the struggle for peace is always harder than going to war, but the dividends are so much greater. He said of our delegation: "What if we had come to this desert to fight? What would be our legacy? What would be our mark on history this October 26th? Instead, we have come as ambassadors of peace. I kept repeating to myself the words from Isaiah that President Clinton quoted:

Let the wilderness and the thirsty land be glad,

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let the desert rejoice and burst into flower."

Item: Jews and Arabs weren't the only ones reaching across religious boundaries. Rev. Otis Moss, Jr., a Black Baptist, and Dr. Mian Mohammad Ashraf, President of the Islamic Center of New England, resolved to get together in the future to talk about their two faith traditions in some ongoing joint forum. "Dr. Ashraf helped me see that most Americans reached conclusions about the Muslim faith based on ignorance," said Rev. Moss. "It's important for us not to confuse the Nation of Islam with the Islamic faith."

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Item: Several of us Presidential Guests felt we were making history on two levels -- by witnessing a peace signing, and by making peace on a person-to-person basis. For instance, Lynn Lyss, Chair of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said: "This was my first opportunity at intense exposure to Arabs. Talking to one another about our work and families helped reduce the sense of Otherness that I'd felt about them. Personal talk humanizes the Other. It lets you put aside old baggage. It left me with the impression that though we have our differences, we have one thing in common: our desire for peace."

Item: My seat-mate on Plane 1 was Omar Kader, a Palestinian-American born in Utah, and now living in the Washington, D.C. area. Because there were so many hours of travel, and because we didn't get much sleep, Omar and I talked almost non-stop for some 30 hours. (There were seven legs of our journey over all.) As a result, we know more about each other than do most people who've known one another for years. We mined the details of where and how we grew up, our parents' attitudes toward life and the Jewish-Arab conflict, how we met and married our spouses, his experiences as a Muslim convert to Mormonism, my experiences as a newly re-awakened Jew, his efforts to convince Yasir Arafat and others to negotiate with Israel as long as 10 years ago (he also tried to convince Arafat to embrace Gandhian non-violence instead of armed resistance), my efforts to bring the Peace Now message into the mainstream of the Jewish world, his academic career, my writing career, and so on.

Beyond the biographical material, we shared with each other our greatest agony, our greatest ecstasy, our major fears, our favorite writers, our most deeply held political dreams.

I think Omar Kader and I would both agree -- as would several other pairs of seat-mates on this trip -- that our friendship is one of the most valuable by-products of this White House mission. Politics is personal after all.

Item: Unofficial rankings on Plane 1:

Most gregarious -- Lynn Lyss
Least gregarious -- Mort Zuckerman
Soundest sleeper -- Larry Tisch (the flight attendant had to practically pummel him to get him up for landings).
Runner-up sound sleeper -- Governor Bruce Sundlun
Best outfit -- Victor Kovner's white linen suit and matching straw hat worn to the signing.
Most patient -- Mel French
Most enthusiastic -- Leo O'Donovan
Most generous -- Hillary Rodham Clinton

Item: In Aqaba, on a sort of bedsheet banner stretched across the road outside our hotel, these words had been hand-painted:
WITH HEARTS FILLED WITH PEACE WE SHALL SIGN THE PEACE TREATY.

Item: In Amman, as we made our way to our seats in the balcony of the parliament, many Jordanians smiled at us and said, "Thank you for your help." Or "Please thank your president for helping us make peace." Or, "We appreciate your president for coming." [Incidentally, smoking is permitted in the parliament chamber, a very odd sight.)

Item: At the lunch given in Hillary's honor, Leah Rabin introduced some of the more prominent guests. "And this is the former wife of President Herzog," she said. Everyone laughed. What she meant to say was, "this is the wife of former President Herzog."

Item: Mrs. Rabin told of two moments from the ceremony in the desert that will stand out in her memory: First, when the Israeli army played "Hatikva," (Israel's national anthem which means "Hope") "I thought about all the generations of Jews who never lost hope," she said. And secondly, when the balloons were set off at the end of the ceremonies -- "They were so strong and so colorful," she said. "We all wanted to go into the air with them."

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Item: Unlike what Americans are accustomed to, the shouts heard from the audience during the ceremonies were not protests but

rather were the words of a cheer "Kefak Hey," which means Hip Hip Hooray. The cheer was shouted in unison by Israeli and Jordanian high school students who were seated together in the bleachers.

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The President, in his speech to the Knesset, made reference to Corp. Waxman as "a son of your nation and I proudly say, a citizen of ours." Supposedly, someone from the White House staff arranged for the Waxmans to meet the President at the end of the session. Did this actually happen?

Item: Israelis got a great kick out of the President's Hebrew pronunciations -- kin-esset for Knesset -- and his valiant effort to say the words Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

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October 29, 1994

To: Milan Verveer

I faxed you a copy of an op-ed piece I wrote today (I sent it c/o Neil Lattimore at Lisa's fax number because I found him in today). What follows is a first report. I'll pull more from my notes after I return from the black-Jewish symposium. If necessary in the meantime, you can reach me at Harvard at the DuBoise Institute, 617-495-4192 or at The Charles Hotel, Cambridge, Mass.

Color, human interest, random anecdotes from Jordan-Israel trip for use in speeches

Item: Just before we landed in Amman, Father Leo O'Donovan, president of Georgetown University, organized an ecumenical prayer service. Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, said the prayer for peace that Jews utter more than a dozen times a day -- the same prayer that Prime Minister Rabin had quoted at the signing with the PLO on the White House lawn. Father O'Donovan offered a message of peace from the New Testament (check citation, I think it was from Mark). And Abul Huda Farouki, a Muslim lay leader, recited a similarly inspiring passage from the Koran.

"The fact that we prayed together before we landed made it easier to talk to each other on the ground," said Father Leo.

Item: The President might make some passing reference to Hillary's extraordinary interactions with our "special guests" delegation. She was always warm, informal, endearing. For instance, on the flight home from Jerusalem, at about 7 A.M., we convened in the plane's aisles for a similar prayer service. Rev. Joan Campbell, CEO of the National Council of Churches, suggested that one of Hillary's staff people knock on the door of her private stateroom and ask if she wanted to join us. There was some discussion about whether or not to wake her, but Joan insisted: "I know her and she'll be mad if we leave her out; I'm sure she'll want to pray too." Shortly afterward, Hillary came out wearing her glasses, no make-up, and a big smile. After we prayed together, she took the trouble to thank us for dropping everything in our lives and agreeing to be part of the President's entourage.

Item: On the flight from Amman to Jerusalem, she was in the back of the plane talking with several of us, when the pilot suddenly

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started cruising down the runway for take-off. At that moment, she'd been listening to Thomas Coury, an Arab-American, explain why he favored an end to the travel ban against Lebanon. Rather than repair to her private stateroom for the take-off and leave Tommy in mid-sentence, Hillary sat down in the seat next to him, buckled herself in, and didn't leave that seat until the conversation was finished about ten minutes later. (Through the whole thing, Tommy looked as if he'd died and gone to heaven.)

Item: We who were on the First Lady's plane on the flight from Jerusalem back to Washington, did not expect to see her at all. After a grueling two days in Jordan and Israel, she was entitled to some rest. But a few minutes after take-off, Hillary came out of her stateroom carrying a huge box of chocolates. She proceeded to circulate amongst us, chatting as she offered the candy to each person, one by one, so that each could choose her or his favorite piece.

When she left, Charles Adams, (African-American) former President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, said, "For the First Lady to come out and serve us was the essence of true greatness and amazing grace. Only someone of very high character would be willing to stoop so low as to pass around a box of candy by her own hand. This small act tells you who this woman is -- someone for whom service is important whatever the context, wherever she is."

(I was equally taken with the gesture though my reaction was less lofty: "They're certainly classing up the flight attendants," I told her, and she twinkled and mimicked a little flight attendant bend at the waist.)

Item: Adams also said, "The President made the right decision when he decided to choose us. We're a group of very different people with remarkably diverse backgrounds. But it shows you that Pres. Clinton embraces diversity, he doesn't fear it."

Nice opportunity to embellish that theme -- embracing diversity, not fearing it. The greatness of America is the incredible resource of its own people. The president has spoken of this in the context of the Haitian operation, saying that we were able to send Creole-speaking Haitian-American soldiers because we have everything and everybody in this glorious population of ours. Can develop that notion further in connection with this delegation. (See manuscript of my Op-Ed piece faxed to you earlier today.)

Also, the five members of our group who were chosen to go to Damascus represented a wonderful spectrum in terms of the Mid-East: two women, three men; two Jewish-Americans, three Arab-Americans (that's reasonable -- they were going to Syria, after all); two Christians, two Jews, and one Muslim.

Item: While milling around waiting to leave the signing site in Aqaba, several of us were talking about the Guiliani endorsement of Cuomo, which we'd learned about the night before. "Can you believe what we're doing?" someone marveled. "We've just witnessed this historic ceremony. Peace has just been made between

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Israel and Jordan and we're talking about New York City politics."

"What do you expect," said a voice in the crowd. "We're Democrats."

Item: While waiting in the parking lot at the desert site, we were stunned to see King Hussein drive by at the wheel of his own car. (And fast, at that.)

Item: Since the Presidential Guests delegation was split between two planes and two buses, a certain good-natured chauvinism developed in each group about its own superiority. Plane 1 took a lot of credit for the fact that all five of those chosen to go to Damascus were from our group. When we traveled from Amman to Jerusalem, someone on Plane 1 remarked that this was the first direct flight between the two nations. "We've just made history," she said. "No you haven't," answered White House staffer Jay Footlik. "Bus 2 got there first."

Item: When we took our seats in the balcony of the Jordanian parliament, the first words Toby Moffet said to Letty Cottin Pogrebin were: "This group needs Emily's List real bad."

(As far as we could tell there was only one woman in the entire legislature.)

Item: Rhode Island Governor Bruce Sundlun, the only Jewish governor in the U.S., told me: "President Clinton should get tremendous credit for this whole Mid-East peace effort. He put his political power on the line for it. Can you just imagine what would have happened had it failed?"

"This proves once again how much one individual can do if he or she is really committed. History doesn't make people; people make history, and President Clinton has made history here today."

Item: (re interactions between American-Arabs and Jews) Many new relationships were forged on this journey and several people have already made plans to reconnect. Former Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker, an Arab-American political consultant, and Lynn Lyss, a Jewish-American who chairs NJCRAC, the grassroots organization of Jewish community relations groups, have already discussed the framework of a Jewish-Arab dialogue effort that they hope to start all over the country. Lynn Lyss and Abul Huda Farouki are going to try to write a joint article. Letty Cottin Pogrebin and Toby Moffett have agreed to work together on issues of common concern.

Item: Hani Masri and Beth and Ron Dozoretz had already formed close bonds when they went to Cairo together last summer. Since then, they'd been seeing each other socially once or twice a week in Washington, so they were practically old friends when they found themselves together on the trip to Jordan. The last night we were in Amman, they added Abul Huda Farouki, Letty Cottin Pogrebin and Victor Kovner to their threesome when, at 10:30 p.m. -- after the signing, a long-delayed trip back from Aqaba, and

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the President's speech at the Jordanian parliament -- they went to dinner at the only restaurant that was still open at that hour. After a wonderful meal and a lot of enthusiastic post-mortems about the President's speech, all six took to the dance floor (where they executed American rock-style movements in time to Arab music). Leaving the restaurant just before 1 A.M., they can't figure out where their energy came from. In any case, the six decided then and there to have a reunion in New York City at Letty's house, because they want everyone's respective spouse to get in on the fun -- and they want to keep on dancing.

Item: Commenting on the close feelings many of us had developed for one another, Father Leo O'Donovan, the president of Georgetown, said: "When we next meet, we'll be old friends. Sharing something as deep as this connects people at a level that can never disappear." Father Leo also took special note of how cooperative and self-forgetful everyone was. "People like Larry Tisch and Mort Zuckerman don't usually have to take such a beating in terms of scheduling and waiting time," he said. "But there was not one complaint from anyone."

Item: This was Father Leo's first trip to Jerusalem. Standing on the ground of Israel for the first time, he said he was overwhelmed, almost speechless. It was hard to control his feelings. He had never wanted to come as a tourist but rather he'd hoped to have reason to be here doing God's work. "Being with this President with this delegation in support of peace fulfills that goal," he said.

Item: I'll never forget the sight of Father Leo jumping for joy and shouting "Lox and bagels! Lox and bagels!" when word traveled through the plane that smoked salmon would soon be served. I'd have sworn the priest had some Jewish blood in him.

Item: When asked what image would always stay in his mind when he thought back to this trip, Larry Tisch said, "The sun."

(My sense is that he meant the sun as a symbol of light, illumination, brilliance, life-giving force, and not just as a recollection of how hot it was at the outdoor signing ceremony -- but then again, it's my interpretation.)

Item: Larry Tisch thought the President's speeches to the Jordanian parliament and the Israeli Knesset were brilliant because they were addressed not just toward the people of Jordan and Israel but toward Syrian President Assad. "Clinton was sending a message with respect to the whole peace process," Tisch said. "He was telling everyone that the U.S. would support peace and would be the enemy of all who opposed peace. He left no doubt about where America stood. Too much of international diplomacy give the wrong signals. The President left no room for misinterpretation."

Item: Virtually everyone in our delegation felt the line "We respect Islam" was one of the President's strongest and most powerful. Letty Cottin Pogrebin said, "With these three words, he

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distinguished between true faith and its extremist expression. He made it clear that we were not criticizing the Islamic religion when we condemn fundamentalism. Those three words should go down in American history with as much permanent resonance as John Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner." (spelling?)

Item: "Those three words reassure non-extreme Muslims all over world that they will not be betrayed," said Rabbi Ismar Schorsch. "The incremental effect of the presence of so many Arab-Americans in our delegation, the President's 'We respect Islam' and the many references the President made to the Muslims in the American population, are all symptomatic of great changes in America. We are moving away from Will Herberg's construct -- Protestant, Catholic and Jew. Soon we'll see constant references to 'Church, Synagogue and Mosque.' The President is helping us to acknowledge the increasing importance of Muslims as a religious minority in the U.S."

Item: Brian Greenspun said, "When we first gathered at the departure lounge in Andrews Air Force, I tried to tell the Arabs from the others and I had trouble doing so. That was my first lesson. Secondly, I hate to admit it but I may have gone into this trip with some bias against Arabs. After spending three days with the Arab-Americans in our delegation, I found far more in common with them than I'd ever dreamed. I was pleased there was so much I could learn from this trip."

Item: Rabbi Schorsch said, "I was impressed that Arab-Americans like Omar Kader and Toby Moffett could express such heartfelt understanding and sympathy for Israel despite their deep ethnic loyalties."

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A Planeload of Immigrants

Last week, while Californians and others were debating the punitive immigration policies contained in Proposition 187, a group of United States citizens -- leaders of American business, media, organized religion, and community life -- accompanied President Clinton to the Mid-East to witness the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

It is no small irony that so many members of this delegation, myself included, were the children or grandchildren of immigrants, or were themselves new Americans.

In the group were Lawrence Tisch, the chairman and CEO of CBS, whose grandparents came here from Russia and Poland; Mary Rose Oaker, the former Congresswoman from Ohio, whose father was born in Syria and whose grandfather was born in Lebanon; Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, himself born in Hanover, Germany, whose family escaped the Nazis in 1938, five weeks after Kristallnacht; and Hani Masri, a native of Nablus, Palestine, former Consul in the Jordanian Embassy, and successful entrepreneur, who became a U.S. citizen in 1987.

Dubbed "Presidential Guests" by the White House, the delegates also included Bruce Sundlun, Governor of Rhode Island,

the Agaba desert toward Eilat -- buoyant symbols of the new connection between the two nations.

But my most stirring moment was when King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin were given flowers by the two little girls whose grandfathers had died in the Six Day War fighting each other's armies. It reminded me of my own grandfather and his place in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A poor Jew from Russia, my father's father came to America in 1900 to escape the pogroms and avoid being drafted into the Czar's army. He and my grandmother raised seven children in New York and New Haven, then retired to Palestine, where he was killed in 1939 in an Arab raid. His grave is in Tiberias. I never knew my father's parents but they left behind dozens of American grandchildren and great-grandchildren who are prospering in what they called "the Golden Land."

Dr. Keder's father came to the United States in 1911 from the Jerusalem "suburb" of Shufat to escape being drafted into the Turkish army. By so doing, he eluded the fate of several of his uncles, cousins, and nephews who were later killed or imprisoned during the long years of Israeli-Palestinian struggle, and he also evaded the poverty in which many of his Jerusalem relatives are still mired.

"Because of my father's courage and the miracle of America," said Dr. Kader, "I am not living the life of a poor Arab selling dates in the Old City. I am living the life of my dreams."

whose grandparents came from Lithuania; Abul Huda Farouki, who emigrated from Jerusalem at age 2 and who has built a flourishing career in international trade and manufacturing; and Mortimer Zuckerman, the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of US News and World Report, who is an immigrant from Canada.

Although we had one descendant from the Mayflower generation, and two great grandsons of slaves, what struck me most about us was the fact that the Jews and Arabs in the delegation were in such close proximity to the immigrant experience.

My airplane seat-mate was Omar Kader, a Palestinian-American born in Provo, Utah. Dr. Kader is a scholar of terrorism and Mid-East politics and a business consultant specializing in domestic and international development, yet, like many of us, he was, in the face of this honor, mindful of his origins and profoundly moved that Mr. Clinton would include him in this historic event.

"My mom and dad are immigrants from Jerusalem, and here I am coming back to their homeland with the President and the First Lady," he told Hillary Rodham Clinton when she joined our group on the flight from Amman to Jerusalem. "I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be part of this."

"You're making me cry," said Mrs. Clinton, and indeed, tears welled up in her eyes. It had been an emotional day. Most of us had been deeply touched by the exchange of salutes, handshakes and gifts between warriors who had once exchanged bullets. A lump rose in many throats when thousands of balloons the colors of both countries' flags were released into the air, floating over

The miracle of America is what allowed his father and my grandfather to escape oppression and spawn offspring who can afford to leave our ancestral resentments behind us and become believers in human perfectability and political transformation. And the miracle of America is what allowed President Clinton to shape a citizen delegation that not only had a record of involvement in Mid-East affairs and strong links with the region, but that mirrored the diversity of this nation, the best of its bootstrap ethos, and the truth of its immigrant history.

If yesterday's immigrants can become today's Presidential Guests, what might become of today's would-be newcomers? Ration the miracle too harshly and we will never know.

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to be part