

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL R. BERGER ^(A)

SUBJECT: Letter from Ray Irani

You asked whether you should call Lebanese President Lahoud as noted by Ray Irani in the attached letter. Rather than make this call yourself, we have suggested that Madeleine do so and expect she will call him sometime this week. Let me know if you disagree.

Core

*copied
Berger
NSC WW
Desk
Podesta*

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
12-29-99

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION
10889 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024
(310) 208-8800

DR. RAY R. IRANI
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 21, 1999

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for including us at the White House Christmas party last Saturday evening. As always, it was a great pleasure to see both you and Mrs. Clinton again.

Congratulations on your personal efforts during the negotiations between Prime Minister Barak and Foreign Minister Shara last week. As has been seen so many times in your Administration, your personal involvement often means the critical difference between success and failure in these matters.

During our discussions on Saturday night, I was pleased to learn that you also agreed to call President Lahoud of Lebanon. As I mentioned, I think that it is very important for him to hear directly from you that you and the Administration are committed to the peace process and the sovereignty of Lebanon. I know that a personal call will go a long way in assuring both the leadership, as well as the citizens of Lebanon, that they are equal partners in this important process.

As you said in your statement at the conclusion of the negotiations last Thursday, the journey will be difficult as Israel and Syria take these critical steps towards peace. In my opinion, the talks have the potential to develop into the best chance for peace in the last fifty years. Again, thank you for your commitment and leadership.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a successful New Year.

Sincerely,

Ray

Copied
Benger
Podesta.

TO: RIEDEL
NAUVEY

Y. Gorky, B



Sunday
Fyi - let's discuss
probably should do

FYI. LET'S DISCUSS
PRESUMABLY SHOULD DO

Edwin M. Ponder, Jr.
4001 Harris Place
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Staff Sec
JC

1-6-00

JAN 6 AM 9:40

December 15, 1999

Dear Mr. President:

I hope you will permit me to address a matter that has bothered me for some time. Wen Ho Lee. I have no access to classified information that has so far appeared in the public record.

As I'm sure you are aware, Dr. Lee was issued a subpoena by an ostensibly bipartisan House committee on alleged Chinese nuclear espionage. At the time he was suspected of having conveyed secrets of state. When no evidence emerged to support this charge, when the former security head of the laboratory was the victim of racial profiling because of his association with the Department of Energy (and presumably the CIA) he substituted the lesser charge that Dr. Lee had downloaded sensitive data to his personal computer. That may be the case for all I know, but my information is that it is common practice at the national laboratories; and you are surely aware that the former CIA director, Dr. DeLoach, was recently investigated -- though not prosecuted -- for a related offense involving sensitive intelligence data. Now, of course, Dr. Lee has been indicted on these vague charges and even denied bail by a magistrate in California.

I must tell you, in all conscience, that this affair from the outset has had the look and odor of a witch hunt, one which is moreover tainted with all the stupidities of "racial profiling." A lame-brained spokesman for the FBI appeared on Jim Lehrer's Newshour program last night to justify this nefarious business on the basis that the Chinese government engage in such profiling by targeting Americans of Chinese ancestry for possible assistance. As the young woman who appeared opposite him rightly noted, this is reminiscent of the singling out for internment of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry after Pearl Harbor. The Lee case, so far as I can see on the basis of limited information, is all too reminiscent of the Oppenheimer case of 1954, to my mind the single most disgraceful of all the many destructive episodes of the McCarthy period. As you know, it was Dr. Oppenheimer who led the original scientific and engineering effort at Los Alamos to develop the first atomic weapons; and those weapons, horrible though they were, did in fact end the war with Japan short of the planned invasion of the home islands and thus almost certainly saved tens of thousands of American and Japanese lives. Yet in 1954, a distinguished scientist who in England would have been offered an earldom and all the honors of a grateful nation, in Eisenhower's America had his security clearance suspended on flimsy star-chamber charges. Seven years later, President Kennedy at least made (or planned, since he did not live to see the formal occasion) a gesture of compensation when he awarded the first Fermi Medal to Dr. Oppenheimer.

Again, I have no access to privileged information or to whatever supposed evidence is claimed to sustain the treatment of Dr. Lee. But you do, presumably, and if it does not satisfy you that justice is being done I hope you will move to discredit this proceeding before it does grave damage to the country and to your administration. Certainly, if Dr. Lee is, as I suspect, the victim of a blundering and vindictive

Send to Bush

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Edwin M. Ponder, Jr.
4001 Harris Place
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Staff Sec
gc

00 JAN 5 AM 9:40

December 15, 1999

Dear Mr. President:

I hope you will permit me to address you confidentially and candidly about a matter that has bothered me for some time: the case of the Los Alamos physicist Dr. Wen Ho Lee. I have no access to classified information; what follows is based on what has so far appeared in the public record.

As I'm sure you are aware, Dr. Lee's situation came to public notice with the issuance, by an ostensibly bipartisan House committee, of the so-called Cox Report on alleged Chinese nuclear espionage. At that time, Dr. Lee was casually said to be suspected of having conveyed secrets of nuclear warhead design to the Chinese. When no evidence emerged to support these casual and damaging charges, indeed when the former security head of the laboratory charged publicly that Dr. Lee was the victim of racial profiling because of his Chinese ancestry, your subordinates at the Department of Energy (and presumably the FBI as well, with their customary leaks) substituted the lesser charge that Dr. Lee had downloaded sensitive data to his personal computer. That may be the case for all I know, but my information is that it is common practice at the national laboratories; and you are surely aware that the former CIA director, Dr. Deutsch, was recently investigated -- though not prosecuted -- for a related offense involving sensitive intelligence data. Now, of course, Dr. Lee has been indicted on these vague charges and even denied bail by a magistrate in California.

I must tell you, in all conscience, that this affair from the outset has had the look and odor of a witch hunt, one which is moreover tainted with all the stupidities of "racial profiling." A lame-brained spokesman for the FBI appeared on Jim Lehrer's Newshour program last night to justify this nefarious business on the basis that the Chinese government engage in such profiling by targeting Americans of Chinese ancestry for possible assistance. As the young woman who appeared opposite him rightly noted, this is reminiscent of the singling out for internment of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry after Pearl Harbor. The Lee case, so far as I can see on the basis of limited information, is all too reminiscent of the Oppenheimer case of 1954, to my mind the single most disgraceful of all the many destructive episodes of the McCarthy period. As you know, it was Dr. Oppenheimer who led the original scientific and engineering effort at Los Alamos to develop the first atomic weapons; and those weapons, horrible though they were, did in fact end the war with Japan short of the planned invasion of the home islands and thus almost certainly saved tens of thousands of American and Japanese lives. Yet in 1954, a distinguished scientist who in England would have been offered an earldom and all the honors of a grateful nation, in Eisenhower's America had his security clearance suspended on flimsy star-chamber charges. Seven years later, President Kennedy at least made (or planned, since he did not live to see the formal occasion) a gesture of compensation when he awarded the first Fermi Medal to Dr. Oppenheimer.

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proceeding, it will be a black mark against your administration, though I am confident it is not of your own doing. Those of us who wish you well are painfully aware that your attorney general and your FBI director have, through previous blundering and incompetence (and disloyalty, in the latter case), done you injury. I for one do not trust their judgment in the Lee matter (and they appear to have signed off on the indictment); still less do I trust the purposes (or intelligence) of the Republican hacks who from the outset sought to use the allegations of Chinese spying as a political scourge against you. You will have noted, I trust, that five distinguished scientists at Stanford have now issued a damaging critical assessment of the so-called Cox Report that underlies all this difficulty for Dr. Lee.

At stake, however, is not merely justice to one nuclear scientist, but the climate at our national research laboratories. Our national security may or may not be at risk in cases of alleged nuclear espionage. It certainly will be at risk, however, if mindless zeal poisons the climate of openness in which science, including government science, must operate. Good scientists will be hard to recruit if the treatment of Dr. Lee is seen as vindictive. That was the underlying issue nearly half a century ago in the Oppenheimer matter; it has been the issue in modern warfare for almost a century; it continues to be paramount now.

If I were still writing my newspaper column, I would say all this in print, but I beg you to consider it in this form. You have the power, and I am bound to add the responsibility, to intercept a grave and dangerous miscarriage of justice, assuming, as I do, that precisely that is in progress in the Wen Ho Lee case.

By the way, I hope you saw my piece on Willie in the Fall Oxonian. If not, let me know and I'll send you a copy. His death left a big hole in our lives.

With every personal good wish,

As ever,
Ed.

ps - please forgive the bluntness of this
note, but this is not a letter for
pussy-footing! Ed

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 1/6/00

To: **BRUCE REED**

From: The Staff Secretary

ARE YOU OK WITH
THIS NOW?

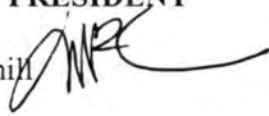
SEAN!

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 3, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Mary Beth Cahill 

RE: Recommendation for a White House Youth Advisory Council to the President

In October of 1999, youth representatives at the Voices Against Violence Congressional Teen Conference and Youth Outreach Meeting encouraged you to consider establishing a cooperative youth-adult partnership for improving America. These young Americans also urged you to consider designing a communication framework to integrate their voices, concerns, issues, and solutions into the nation's agenda.

This year, the Domestic Policy Council is recommending that you consider proposing several new initiatives to support youth development, including a new Youth Empowerment Grant that would support youth-led projects that provide solutions to community problems such as youth violence. Based on the tragic events of the past year, both the Office of Public Liaison and the Domestic Policy Council agree that the federal government needs a more effective policy coordination strategy to interact with youth. It is also clear that young Americans need a forum to communicate their input on the policies developed by the administration, especially with regard to the White House Council Against Youth Violence.

In order to support youth-driven solutions and to more effectively garner the input of youth in developing policies that affect young people, I recommend the Office of Public Liaison and the Domestic Policy Council form a White House Youth Advisory Council. The establishment of this Council would provide young Americans with an opportunity to consult with you and your administration about national issues such as poverty, race relations, education, social security, and youth violence. The Council would also empower young Americans by giving a national voice to their ideas and concerns.

Structure of the Council:

The Directors of the Office of Public Liaison and the Domestic Policy Council would serve as the Council's co-chairs. The Council would meet three times a year with you and/or the chair. Fifteen youth leaders from across the country would be appointed to the Council. Youth leaders would be selected according to their contributions to providing youth solutions to national issues such as education, social security, and youth violence.

Current topics and issues would be discussed with this group to garner their input on the policy developments relating to this matter. Depending on the issue, youth leaders would brainstorm and interact with senior administration officials regarding policies that do or will affect them. For example, youth leaders would have the opportunity to join forces with the Secretary of Labor to

address issues related to job training. Youth leaders would also have the opportunity to present their views to the heads of other agencies (i.e. HHS, DoED, CNS, Labor, and Justice).

Duties of the Council:

Provide a communication mechanism for youth input to the White House Council Against Youth Violence. Young Americans would have a communication vehicle to channel their recommendations to the White House Council Against Youth Violence. The Office of Public Liaison and the Domestic Policy Council would be responsible for hosting Council meetings three times a year to provide young Americans an opportunity to submit and communicate their input on the work of the White House Council Against Youth Violence. Council members would also have the opportunity to host youth-led groups throughout the country that address youth violence.

Provide a communication mechanism for youth input on the nation's agenda. Young Americans would have a communication vehicle to channel their recommendations to the White House on the nation's agenda. During Council meetings, young Americans and youth-based organizations from across the country would have an opportunity to address their suggestions and communicate their input on national issues such as education and social security.

Highlight accomplishments of young Americans. The Council would also have the opportunity to highlight those positive solutions created by young Americans in response to the needs and interests of their generation (i.e. The Corporation for National Service).

Produce reports on youth issues. The Council will prepare or have prepared reports on various aspects of problems relating to youth.

In conclusion, I believe the establishment of this Council would be an excellent way to build on the significant progress this administration has made to connect with our nation's youth. Given your interest and leadership on youth outreach, I look forward to your response to this proposal.

APPROVE: _____

DISAPPROVE: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 6, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CHARLES M. BRAIN *CMB*
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Attached for your signature is a condolence letter to Mrs. Llewellyn Jones upon the recent death of her husband, former Representative Ed Jones (D-TN), at age 87. As you know, Representative Jones served in Congress from 1969 to 1989, where he was a champion for agricultural issues, and subsequently served on the Delta Commission.

Hasn't he
been dead
for months?
How long - if so
why are we so late
on this

Copied
Brain
Podesta
Couch

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Mrs. Llewellyn Jones
P.O. Box 128
Yorkville, Tennessee 38389

Dear Llewellyn:

Hillary and I were so sorry to learn of Ed's death. Throughout his career, he dedicated himself to advancing the issue of rural development and the needs of America's family farms, and I am grateful for the opportunity I had to work with him on the Delta Commission. His death is not only a great loss for you and your family, but for our nation as well.

During his long and distinguished service in the United States Congress, Ed generously gave of his time and talents to better the lives of the people of Tennessee and his fellow Americans. His commitment to the ideals on which America was founded will long be remembered with pride by all who knew him. Our hearts go out to you at this difficult time, and we hope that your sorrow will be eased by the love of your family and friends.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".