

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	re: personal (2 pages)	07/02/1999	Personal Misfile
002. letter	duplicate of 001 (2 pages)	07/02/1999	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Lissa Muscatine
OA/Box Number: 21402

FOLDER TITLE:

Jewish Issues

2015-0275-S

rc1985

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]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- 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)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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Hillary Chairing Arab Charity Event That Excludes Envoys of Jewish State

Lott, Daschle Join Syrians And Sudanese

Giuliani Sees an Opening

By ELI LAKE

FORWARD STAFF

WASHINGTON -- Five months after her hug of Suha Arafat, Hillary Rodham Clinton is serving as the honorary chairwoman and host of a charity event organized by the wives of the ambassadors of Syria and Sudan, a charity that has excluded Israeli representatives from its past activities.

The May 3 event is sponsored by the Mosaic Foundation, a charitable organization formed in 1998 by the wives of Arab diplomats. The group has held three major events, sending out invitations to almost the entire diplomatic corps, but snubbing the Jewish state every time. Mrs. Clinton has been an honorary chairwoman of the organization since its inception and, according to one of the group's founding members, has always helped the organization when asked.

Mrs. Clinton's relations to the Mosaic Foundation are attracting attention in the context of her bid to succeed Senator Moynihan. Her likely opponent in the November election, Mayor Giuliani, was praised last week by Senator McCain as a strong supporter of Israel, according to press reports of their joint appearances. Mr. Giuliani's campaign is already criticizing Mrs. Clinton for lending her name to a group that singles out Israel for exclusion. Others linked to the Mosaic Foundation, including Senators Lott and Daschle and Chicago Jewish megadonor Lester Crown, may become ensnared in this flap, but Mrs. Clinton is in the spotlight owing to her campaign for the Senate from the state with the largest Jewish population. Mrs. Clinton had already stirred controversy by her early support for a Palestinian-Arab state and her embrace of Suha Arafat after Mrs. Arafat accused Israel of poisoning Arab children. Mrs. Clinton eventually condemned Mrs. Arafat's remarks, blaming the delayed reaction on a poor translation and a desire to avoid creating a diplomatic incident.

"Considering that they don't invite Israelis to any of their events, it's surprising that Mrs. Clinton would lend her name and support to an organization that has a policy that is not only exclusionary but seems to be inconsistent with the spirit of the peace process," a spokeswoman for the Giuliani campaign, Caroline Nolan, said.

Two of the Mosaic Foundation's member embassies, Syria and Sudan, are on the State Department list of state sponsors of terrorism.

A spokeswoman for the first lady at the White House, Erika Batcheller, said, "Hillary Clinton as first lady regularly agrees to serve as honorary chair of charitable events. This particular event benefits Save the Children. Last year's beneficiary was Race for the Cure, and sponsors include the congressional leadership of both parties. The question of exclusion or discrimination has never been raised. Mrs. Clinton would not support or lend her name to an event that practiced discrimination."

Israel's deputy chief of mission in Washington, Lenny Ben-David, said he wished the charity Mrs. Clinton chairs would drop its policy of excluding Israel. "We admire the efforts made by the general Washington diplomatic corps to raise funds for worthy causes. And whenever possible Israeli diplomats in Washington attend these events to show our support. Frequently we encourage Washington philanthropists to join," Mr. Ben-David said. "Therefore, I have deep regret that the Mosaic Foundation, working for such worthy charities, has never invited Israeli diplomats. The needs of children's charities transcend the politics and tensions of the Middle East. We wish the Mosaic Foundation great success in their endeavor and look forward to the day when we can join together to help children."

The vice chairwoman of the Mosaic Foundation, Lynne Muasher, who is the wife of Jordan's ambassador to America, tried to explain the group's policy of keeping Israeli diplomats off the invitation list. "If there are no relationships with Israel, how can you invite somebody to an event when you don't have political relationships with them?" she asked. The majority of the Mosaic Foundation's member embassies do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Mrs. Muasher said that each year's gala has attracted a significant crowd, not only from the Washington diplomatic corps but from the corporate and political worlds as well. "Many European embassies showed up last year and the year before, and of course Arab embassies," she said.

The group started, according to Mrs. Muasher, through informal gatherings between the diplomats' wives, becoming more organized in 1998. From its inception, Mrs. Clinton has served as the group's honorary chairwoman, hosting fund-raisers with corporate donors. "She has been our honorary chair ever since we started. She is there if we need her," Mrs. Muasher said.

In the past two years, the foundation's annual galas have raised more than \$1 million for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and for the National Race for the Cure, a charity for breast-cancer research. This year the proceeds from the event will go to a British charity, Save the Children, and specifically to its programs in Morocco, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

The event, dubbed an "Arabian Night," is scheduled to feature a Kuwaiti dance troupe and dinner at the National Building Museum. Attendance at the event costs \$400 per person. For \$50,000, a donor buys "podium recognition," a dinner table for 10, preferred seating and access to VIP events, according to an invitation.

The list of congressional sponsors for the event includes the Senate majority leader, Mr. Lott, as well as his Democratic counterpart, Mr. Daschle. Also involved is an ABC News commentator and former Clinton political aide, George Stephanopoulos.

Corporate sponsors include companies involved in the petroleum industry, including Chevron, Texaco, ExxonMobil, Shell International EP, Phillips Petroleum, BP Amoco and Halliburton. A number of defense contractors are also sponsoring the event, including the Boeing Co., General Dynamics, General Electric and Hughes Space & Telecommunications. Also on the list of corporate sponsors is The Slim Fast Food Co., which is owned by a Jewish American, S. Daniel Abraham, who has been a frequent guest at the White House and who is active in

shuttle diplomacy between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"Each year you get to build up credibility and people get to know you more and more, so many corporations have sponsored tables for this event," Mrs. Muasher said. Mrs. Muasher insisted that the event was nonpolitical, but added that it helped strengthen ties between Arab countries and America. "We are a nonpolitical organization, we deal with cultural events and fund raising. One of our objectives is, of course, to build relationships with Americans and Arabs and to introduce Arab culture to the Americans," she said.

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MOSAIC
FOUNDATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS OFFICE

PHONE: (202) 456-2960
FAX: (202) 456-7805

TO: H.R.H. Princess Haifa al-Faisal
FAX: 703-522-8099 PHONE: 703-276-7474
DATE: 4/12 TIME: 8:24 pm
PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 2

FROM: Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff

COMMENTS:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 2000

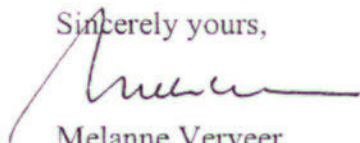
Her Royal Highness Princess Haifa al-Faisal
Embassy of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Your Royal Highness:

As you know, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton lends her name every year to numerous charitable causes. For the past three years, she has been pleased to serve as Honorary Chair of the Mosaic Foundation's gala benefits, which have generated much-needed support for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, National Race for the Cure, and Save the Children. While we understand that only a limited number of invitations are extended to the diplomatic corps, it has come to Mrs. Clinton's attention that the event's sponsors have chosen not to invite representatives of the Israeli government because certain Arab states do not recognize the state of Israel.

Under these circumstances, Mrs. Clinton will no longer be able to serve as honorary chair of the Mosaic Foundation event.

Sincerely yours,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 2000

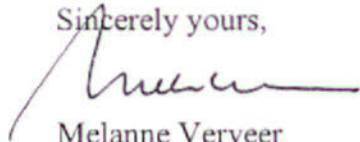
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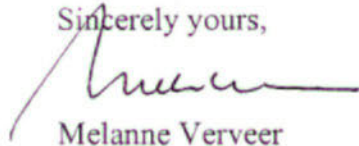
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Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

April 14, 2000, Friday, Home Edition

SECTION: News; Pg. 5B

LENGTH: 1144 words

HEADLINE: The Political Ticker: QUICK HITS FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL;
CAMPAIGN 2000

BYLINE: Ernie Freda, Staff

SOURCE: CONSTITUTION

BODY:

Together again, for the first time

George W. Bush and John McCain will meet on May 9 in Pittsburgh for the first time since the Arizona senator, Bush's toughest party rival, folded his candidacy. "Of course I want his support, but I don't know if it will happen as a result of the meeting," Bush said Thursday in Austin, Texas. "John wants to visit. I want to visit," he added. McCain, speaking to reporters just off the Senate floor, said, "I'm sure we'll have a fruitful discussion" including possible ways of helping out in the GOP campaign. McCain already has pledged to support the nominee of his party, but has said the enthusiasm he puts into the effort will depend in part on Bush's willingness to adopt elements of the senator's "reform agenda."

Perhaps they better vet the report now

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, smarting from news that its leader contributed to Hillary Clinton's campaign, on Thursday postponed public discussion of a report said to criticize Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's New York Police Department. The commission denied any connection. Mary Frances Berry contributed to the first lady's campaign. Berry gave \$ 250 last year to Clinton and another \$ 300 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Said Giuliani: "It doesn't take much to figure out this is a political operation." How much help on health?

Reaction to George W. Bush's proposal to give \$ 2,000 tax credits to help poor families pay for health insurance received mixed reviews, as such proposals generally do. Some see it as a generous plan that will assist millions; others say the "tiny" credits won't help most families. John Goodman, president of the National Center for Policy Analysis, a conservative research group, says the tax credits will help 18 million low-income Americans buy health insurance, including 4 million to 5 million who couldn't afford it before. Ron Pollack, president of Families USA, which lobbies for universal health care, countered that most uninsured families still couldn't afford coverage because the tax credits would cover too little of their out-of-pocket expenses.

Making hay with Ventura

The word Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura and his wife, Terry, used repeatedly to describe their dinner with Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, was "fantastic," said the Minneapolis Star Tribune. The private dinner at the vice presidential residence Wednesday night lasted more than four hours. The newspaper reported that the two couples traded jokes, told stories of raising children in the public eye, and went out to the nearby Naval Observatory telescope to observe the moon. Gore's association with Ventura may be an effort to reach out to independents and establish credentials as a reformer. This second meeting was said to have gone so well that the Gores accepted an invitation to the Ventura ranch on their next visit to Minnesota.

Take me out to the ballgame

Hillary Clinton never quite stated it, but pretty much everything she did in Rochester, N.Y. --- her fourth upstate visit in six days --- was intended as a reminder of which Senate candidate had not shown up as promised. Rudolph Giuliani had decided abruptly to scrap an upstate campaign swing Wednesday so he could attend the Yankees home opener. At nearly every opportunity, Clinton has managed to slip into her remarks the number of times she had been upstate and the places she had visited. This time, she was supposed to visit only Buffalo, but added a quick trip to Rochester, the second of two cities Giuliani was supposed to visit. She stayed just long enough for a glass of iced tea and a sit-down chat with voters.

New York Senate state of mind

Hillary Clinton scrapped plans to headline a May 3 charity dinner for an Arab-American group because representatives from the Israeli Embassy were not invited. Certain Arab countries do not recognize Israel. The Mosaic Foundation is made up of the wives of Arab ambassadors to the United States who raise money for charity, and Clinton began support of the group when she was a Washington, not a New York, Hillary. This year's dinner on May 3 is to benefit Save the Children. Rudolph Giuliani's campaign spokeswoman Kim Serafin called Clinton's decision to back out "a classic Clinton flip-flop."

No politics, on general principles

Five years after he ruled out running for president, retired Gen. Colin Powell still gets The Big Question about a political future. "I have never had any political inclination," he told the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, stressing "never." "Political life is not for me." But Powell, a registered Republican, said later he would consider any nonpolitical role offered to him, keeping alive the possibility he'd end up in the Cabinet if George W. Bush is elected president. Powell already has ruled out being Bush's running mate.

Helping hand? That's debatable

The Reform Party's Pat Buchanan expects Al Gore to give him a helping hand. Buchanan told USA Today that Gore may support his bid to be included in presidential debates in the fall. "I wouldn't be surprised to see Gore say, 'He belongs in the debate, too.'" And that would put terrible pressure on (George W.) Bush." Gore would be acting on the assumption that Buchanan's candidacy would

hurt Bush more, but Buchanan said that calculation could be a mistake.
Riding off with SUV vote

A new poll conducted for House Republicans reveals that John McCain is a more popular running mate than Colin Powell for George W. Bush, according to the Washington Times. Meanwhile, 25 percent of Americans told Gallup interviewers last month that they own a sport utility vehicle. Of this group, Roll Call reports, 57 percent said they'll vote for Bush and 35 said Al Gore.

Start saving young

George W. Bush remains undaunted by critics and continues to hawk his plan for reducing poverty and improving public health. But the Los Angeles Times, detailing the latest pieces of Bush's "New Prosperity Initiative," found a problem. Among Bush's proposals: special bank accounts for education and small business in which banks would match deposits made by the poor up to \$ 300 a year in return for tax credits. At that rate, saving enough for a semester of college could take 20 years.

Staying up late for the VP

He didn't arrive until after midnight Thursday morning, but that wasn't going to stop Al Gore from keeping an appointment with a local teacher who was serving as host for the night in Charlotte. Gore has made a point of sleeping over the night before at the home of a teacher from the chosen school. This time, it was Laurel Warfield's turn. The sixth-grade language arts teacher was told Gore's late-night visit was running an hour late, but she and her family were waiting up.

Compiled by Ernie Freda from staff and news reports

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2000

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

April 14, 2000, Friday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section B; Page 4; Column 1; Metropolitan Desk

LENGTH: 544 words

HEADLINE: First Lady Moves to Improve Relations With Jewish Voters

BYLINE: By ADAM NAGOURNEY

BODY:

On Wednesday, Hillary Rodham Clinton hastily ended a news conference in a Rochester suburb so she could fly back for an unannounced meeting with Jewish leaders in Manhattan. The day before, the first lady called one of the city's leading Orthodox Jewish leaders, Assemblyman Dov Hikind of Brooklyn, while he was visiting his father in the hospital to offer words of sympathy and arrange a meeting about her Senate candidacy.

And yesterday, Mrs. Clinton's aides said that she had abruptly withdrawn as the honorary chairwoman of a charity dinner organized by an Arab-American group after learning, they said, that the organization had refused to invite representatives of the Israeli Embassy to its charity events. Mr. Hikind, a Democrat who was once one of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's most ardent Jewish supporters, was quick to applaud the gesture.

These events come in the midst of a concerted, if unannounced, effort by Mrs. Clinton's campaign to try to repair her shaky relations with many Jewish voters. Over the last two months, barely a week has gone by without Mrs. Clinton's appearing at a synagogue or a Jewish women's luncheon and holding a private meeting with Jewish leaders.

Mrs. Clinton has had problems with some Jewish leaders because of some of her positions, including her support of the creation of a Palestinian state, and her visit to the West Bank last year where she sat silently as the wife of Yasir Arafat seemingly accused Israel of poisoning Arab women and children. Given that history, Bruce J. Teitelbaum, Mr. Giuliani's campaign manager, expressed skepticism that her recent actions would dislodge doubts about her among Jewish voters.

"Given Mrs. Clinton's relationship with Al Sharpton, embrace of Suha Arafat and waffling on Jerusalem," Mr. Teitelbaum said, "and given Mr. Hikind's extremist right-wing sentiments, it just goes to show you that Mrs. Clinton will do and say just about anything to get elected."

Mr. Hikind said that Mrs. Clinton had "a long way" to go to convince him that she would adequately represent Jewish interests in the Senate. But Mr. Hikind,

The New York Times, April 14, 2000

who had a falling out with Mr. Giuliani six years ago -- Mr. Giuliani, he said, had yet to call him offering sympathy for his father -- said he was moved to hear Mrs. Clinton offering sympathy.

"She was very gracious and very, very warm," Mr. Hikind said yesterday. "What can I tell you? Her warm words about my father -- all I can tell you is that it was nice."

Her rapid decision to pull out as the honorary chairwoman for the dinner sponsored by the Mosaic Foundation, which is made up of wives of Arab ambassadors to raise money for charity, stood in sharp contrast to her much slower response to the dispute with Mrs. Arafat.

This was to be the third year that Mrs. Clinton served as the honorary dinner chairwoman. Mrs. Clinton's aides said she was not aware of its policy regarding the Israelis before, and noted that the dinner's sponsors included Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, and Tom Daschle, the minority leader.

Mr. Teitelbaum was skeptical of the explanation. "Mrs. Clinton has a history of supporting this organization," he said, "so you have to wonder about her past support and the reasons why she suddenly canceled."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2000

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

April 14, 2000, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 243 words

HEADLINE: U.S. Panel Delays Report on N.Y. Police

BODY:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, smarting from news that its chairwoman contributed to Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign, yesterday postponed public discussion of a report said to criticize Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's New York Police Department.

The commission denied any connection.

Meanwhile, the first lady scrapped plans to headline a charity dinner for an Arab American group because representatives from the Israeli Embassy were not invited. Certain Arab states do not recognize the state of Israel. "Under these circumstances, Mrs. Clinton will no longer be able to serve as honorary chair of the Mosaic Foundation event," a statement from the first lady's office said.

The Mosaic Foundation is made up of the wives of Arab ambassadors to the United States who raise money for charity. This year's dinner on May 3 is to benefit Save the Children. Clinton has served as honorary chairwoman for the dinner for the past three years.

Giuliani campaign spokeswoman Kim Serafin called Clinton's decision to back out "a classic Clinton flip-flop."

Also yesterday, Giuliani denounced a civil rights commission investigation of the NYPD after Newsday reported that the panel's head, Mary Frances Berry, contributed to Clinton's campaign. Berry gave \$ 250 last year to Clinton and another \$ 300 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "It doesn't take much to figure out this is a political operation," Giuliani said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2000

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press
AP Online

April 13, 2000; Thursday

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 245 words

HEADLINE: NYC Police Report Talk Delayed

BYLINE: SHANNON McCAFFREY

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, smarting from news that its chairwoman contributed to Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign, on Thursday postponed public discussion of a report said to criticize Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's New York Police Department.

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Also Thursday, Giuliani denounced a civil rights commission probe of the NYPD after word surfaced in Newsday that the panel's chairwoman, Mary Frances Berry, contributed to the first lady's campaign. Berry gave \$250 last year to Clinton and another \$300 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

"It doesn't take much to figure out this is a political operation," Giuliani said Thursday.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 13, 2000

6TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 2000 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)

April 13, 2000, Thursday SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 298 words

HEADLINE: HIL TO SKIP ARAB DINNER BECAUSE ISRAELIS LEFT OUT

BYLINE: By KENNETH R. BAZINET DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU With William Goldschlag and Lisa Colangelo

BODY:

WASHINGTON - Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to head off a new crisis with the Jewish community last night when she abruptly withdrew as honorary chairwoman of an Arab-American charity dinner because Israelis were not invited.

The First Lady has supported the charity work of the Mosaic Foundation for three years but said in a statement last night that when she learned representatives of the Israeli Embassy were not invited, she pulled out of the group's May 3 dinner.

Clinton, who is running for Senate in New York, where 12% of the population is Jewish, has been carefully wooing Jews - as has her opponent, Mayor Giuliani - after several missteps. "The event's sponsors have chosen not to invite representatives of the Israeli government because certain Arab states do not recognize the state of Israel," her campaign said. "Under these circumstances, Mrs. Clinton will no longer be able to serve as honorary chair."

Giuliani's campaign called the action "blatantly political."

"Mrs. Clinton invited this group to the White House in '98, attended their dinner last year, so her decision to flip-flop seems to be motivated more by politics than by principal, as usual," said Kim Serafin, a spokeswoman for the mayor.

Clinton stepped into the equivalent of a minefield in November when she sat silently by as Suha Arafat, wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, accused Israel of using poison gas on Palestinian women and children.

In February, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert called Giuliani "the greatest friend of the City of Jerusalem."

Meanwhile, Clinton, who was campaigning upstate yesterday, has begun a dialogue with Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn), an influential voice in the Orthodox Jewish community who has criticized the First Lady's comments on Israel.

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Subject: Forward Alert: Hillary Breaks with Bill On Jerusalem

We invite your coverage of this story and I am happy to arrange interviews for you with our reporter, Seth Gitell. Thanks, Amanda Gordon, Director of Media Relations for the Forward, 212 576 0694.

From the front page of the Forward, 7/9/99

Hillary Breaks With Bill Over Issue of Jerusalem, Vowing Fight for Capital

First Lady Sends Letter to Ganchrow Calling City

æEternal and Indivisible

Æ

By SETH GITELL

FORWARD STAFF

WASHINGTON

ù In a substantive break with the policies of her husband the president, Hillary Rodham Clinton is calling Jerusalem "the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel."

The first lady

Æs statement came in a letter to the president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Dr. Mandell Ganchrow. The letter, a copy of which was obtained by the Forward, was a reply to a June 8 inquiry from Dr. Ganchrow asking whether she considered "Jerusalem to be the indivisible eternal capital of Israel."

Mrs. Clinton

Æs position on Jerusalem is drawing attention as she prepares for a four-day swing through upstate New York beginning at the Oneonta farm of Senator Moynihan. One of the questions attending Mrs. Clinton

Æs candidacy for the Senate seat to be vacated when Mr. Moynihan

Æs term expires at the start of 2001 is the extent to which the first lady will be able to separate herself from her husband

Æs policies. She began to do that last week, when she appeared to side with Senator Schumer and a New York labor union against President Clinton

Æs proposals on Medicare, which would reduce federal subsidies for New York teaching hospitals. Her comments on Jerusalem signal a willingness to differ with her husband

Æs policies on a second issue that is of importance to an important New York constituency, Jewish voters.

"I personally consider Jerusalem the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel," Mrs. Clinton wrote Dr. Ganchrow. "If I am chosen by New Yorkers to be

their Senator, or in whatever position I find myself in the years to come, you can be sure that I will be an active, committed advocate for a strong and secure Israel, able to live in peace with its neighbors, with the United States Embassy located in its capital, Jerusalem."

Mr. Clinton has been wildly popular with New York voters and with Jewish voters, carrying the Empire State in the 1992 Democratic primary as well as

in the 1992 and 1996 general elections with wide margins among Jewish voters. So Mrs. Clinton, like Vice President Gore, who finds himself in a similar situation, does not need to distance herself too much. Still, Mrs. Clinton

Æs comments last year favoring Palestinian statehood without the usual caveats about demilitarization and negotiation with the Israelis unnerved some centrist Jewish organizations. (The first lady has since modified her stance on the statehood issue, saying it is a matter for negotiation between the parties.) Leaders of some of those same Jewish organizations are now expressing appreciation for Mrs. Clinton

Æs stance on
Jerusalem.

Mrs. Clinton wrote that the timing of any move of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem "must be sensitive to Israel

Æs interest in achieving
a
secure peace with its neighbors. I will never countenance any action that would endanger Israel

Æs security." She concluded: "I would welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Orthodox Union."

Mrs. Clinton

Æs recognition of Jerusalem as Israel

Æs capital presents a
striking contrast to the views of Mr. Clinton

Æs State Department and
National Security Council. Mr. Clinton recently exercised a national security waiver contained in a law that would otherwise have required him to
move the embassy to Jerusalem. Asked if Mr. Clinton believed that Jerusalem was Israel

Æs "eternal and indivisible capital," a spokesman for the
National
Security Council, Colonel P.J. Crowley, said, "We recognize Tel Aviv as the capital. As for Jerusalem, it is our view that issues regarding Jerusalem need to be resolved as part of final status issues" in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs. Colonel Crowley added, "The

president

Æs view was reflected in his recent decision on the Jerusalem Embassy Act."

As for the State Department, it has long recorded the birthplace on the passports of Americans born in Jerusalem

ù even western Jerusalem, which has been part of Israel since the state was founded in 1948

ù as simply "Jerusalem," rather than, "Jerusalem, Israel." The State Department

Æs deputy special Middle East coordinator, Aaron Miller, was asked recently at an audience before an American Jewish group to name the city in Israel that is Israel

Æs capital. Mr. Miller would say only that Israel claimed its capital in Jerusalem. The controversy stems partially from a 1947 U.N. General Assembly resolution, 181, which envisioned Jerusalem as a corpus separatum, an international city outside of Israeli control. The resolution was never implemented, but Arab diplomats have lately been trying to revive it as a basis for final status talks with Israel.

In an interview, Dr. Ganchrow said, "There is a lot of significance to this letter. It is the first time she has used the words

æeternal and indivisible.

Æ"

Dr. Ganchrow provided the Forward with a copy of his response to Mrs. Clinton

Æs missive. "We are very pleased that you pledge your active committed advocacy for a strong and secure Israel as we are gratified by your stated view that Jerusalem is the eternal and indivisible capital of the State of Israel."

Dr. Ganchrow also raised a question about Mrs. Clinton

Æs reference to the

"timing" of the move. "The timing of such a move is an issue that we look forward to discussing with you," Dr. Ganchrow wrote. "Five years have passed without fulfillment of the United States law that, indeed, confirms your position that Jerusalem is the eternal indivisible capital of Israel. And yet, the move has not been made and the Administration continues to stall in its implementation. The law does not link the move to the completion of the peace process."

Dr. Ganchrow wrote to Mrs. Clinton, "How you would vote as Senator regarding removing the President

Æs waiver powers on the move to Jerusalem, is certainly an issue for discussion."

A bipartisan group of lawmakers, including Senator Lieberman, a Democrat of Connecticut, and Senator Kyl, a Republican of Arizona, are working on legislation to express their anger at Mr. Clinton

Æs waiver of the law. One option involves withholding funding from the State Department. Another provides for an amendment to the law that strikes the waiver provision altogether.

The head of Mayor Giuliani

Æs Senate exploratory committee, Bruce Teitelbaum, said, "As a candidate for the U.S. Senate from New York, one

Æs position on these issues is of paramount importance to the Jewish community." Mr. Teitelbaum said the mayor had already taken a strong position on Jerusalem. "There are many issues regarding the status of Jerusalem. One is the location of the U.S. Embassy. Two is the matter of a unified Jerusalem under Israeli control and, overall, the status of Jerusalem," Mr. Teitelbaum said.

A senior adviser to Mr. Moynihan who helped craft the original Jerusalem Embassy Act, David Luchins, praised the first lady

Æs statement. "The era of legislation is over. We now need allies to get the administration to follow the law of the land," said Mr. Luchins, who met with Mrs. Clinton last

month. "What better ally could we have than the first lady?"

The executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Malcolm Hoenlein, called Mrs. Clinton

Æs

statements "helpful." "We welcome any reaffirmation of the view that Jerusalem is Israel

Æs capital," he said.

Mr. Hoenlein criticized the White House for calling Tel Aviv Israel

Æs

capital. "No one ever said Tel Aviv is the capital of Israel. Our embassy may be there, but it is U.S. law that Jerusalem is the capital. The statement by Mr. Crowley is contrary to American law and is totally unacceptable," Mr. Hoenlein said.

[Colonel Crowley called back on Wednesday to amend his statement, saying now, "Israel considers Jerusalem its capital. The United States does not take a position."]

The national director of the Anti-Defamation League, Abraham Foxman, said, "Thank God, sometimes politics play in favor of what

Æs the right thing. It looks like she

Æs planning to run in New York. That

Æs what democracy is all about. It

Æs good to have her on our side."

The national president of the Zionist Organization of America, Morton Klein, praised part of Mrs. Clinton

Æs statement, but also raised questions about it. When her quotes were first read to him, Mr. Klein said, "She really wants to be a senator from New York." He added, however, that Mr. Clinton had issued a similarly strong statement during the 1992 presidential campaign. "I consider this as the same as the other Clinton

Æs position when
the other Clinton was running for office in 1992," Mr. Klein said. Mr.
Klein
also challenged Mrs. Clinton

Æs referring to the timing of the embassy move.
"When they

Ære saying it

Æs not the right time, they

Ære talking about giving
in to Arab threats. It

Æs simply caving in to threats of terror," Mr. Klein
said.

From the front page of the Forward, 7/9/99.

For more information, please contact Amanda Gordon at 212 576 0694.

About the Forward: THE FORWARD. The New York Times' A.M. Rosenthal calls
THE
FORWARD 'INDISPENSABLE FOR JEWS AND NON-JEWS INTERESTED IN MATTERS
AFFECTING
JEWS". The Washington Post calls it America's "liveliest Jewish newspaper."
The New Yorker calls it "a gigantic leap beyond much of the rest of the
mainstream Jewish English-language press." The Los Angeles Times says:
"Just
as Jews remade themselves from immigrants to Americans over the last 100
years, the Forward that everyone read in Yiddish at the beginning of this
century has transformed into the Forward that increasing numbers of Jews
are
reading in English at the end of this century." They are all talking about
the weekly English language newspaper that was launched in 1990 on the
Foundation of the famed Yiddish language Forward and is rocking the Jewish
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Hillary Clinton Backs Israel On Jerusalem

REUTERS 11.57 a.m. ET (1559 GMT) July 8, 1999

WASHINGTON — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, breaking with U.S. official policy, told an Orthodox Jewish organization based in New York that she considers Jerusalem "the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel."

She also promised that, if New Yorkers elected her to the U.S. Senate, she would support a strong Israel and favor moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, she said.

She took the unorthodox policy positions in a letter to the Orthodox Union dated July 2 and obtained by Reuters Thursday. The Orthodox Union represents about 750 orthodox Jewish synagogues across the United States.

U.S. policy is that Israel and the Palestinians should decide the fate of Jerusalem in talks on "final status" issues, together with borders, refugees and Jewish settlements.

U.S. leaders have said they do not want to see the city again divided, as it was between 1948 and 1967, but they have never publicly accepted the Israeli view that it is the "eternal and indivisible" capital of the Jewish state.

Palestinians see the old eastern and mainly Arab part of the city, captured by Israel in the 1967 war, as the capital of a future independent Palestinian state.

A U.S. official described Hillary Clinton's letter as "untimely," coming just as a new Israeli government has raised hopes of progress in Middle East talks.

The first lady, who is exploring the possibility of running for the Senate in New York next year, made the promises in response to a letter on June 8 from Mandell Ganchrow, the president of the Orthodox Union.

Ganchrow asked if she considered Jerusalem to be the indivisible eternal capital of Israel and if she would vote to deprive the U.S. president of his authority to delay the process of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

The retiring senator whose seat she would contest, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, has been strongly pro-Israeli. He was one of the sponsors of the 1995 legislation which called on the administration to move the embassy by May 31 this year.

"I personally consider Jerusalem the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel, and I admire the leadership shown by Sen. Moynihan on this issue," Clinton answered.

"If I am chosen by New Yorkers to be their senator, ... you can be sure that I will be an active, committed advocate for a strong and secure Israel able to live in

peace with its neighbors, with the United States Embassy located in its capital, Jerusalem," she added.

Hillary Clinton added one condition for the embassy move. "The timing ... must be sensitive to Israel's interest in achieving a secure peace with its neighbors," she wrote.

The letter did not take a position on whether the president should have the right to delay a move.

Her husband, President Clinton, used his waiver power in June, saying the embassy must stay in Tel Aviv for the moment "to protect our critical national security interests, most crucially in preserving the prospects for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

An embassy move at this stage would infuriate Palestinians and other Arabs, who refuse to recognize Israel's unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem and continue to consider it occupied territory subject to the Geneva conventions.

Hillary Clinton's previous intervention in Middle East politics was also controversial, in the opposite direction.

In May 1998 she said a Palestinian state should emerge from Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank. The White House said her remark reflected her personal opinion and did not mark a change in U.S. policy.

The Orthodox Union said it was releasing her letter because "it is crucial that the Jewish community of New York be informed of her opinions concerning Israel and Jerusalem."

Her possible Republican rival for the Senate seat, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, has won over many formerly Democratic Jews with strongly pro-Israeli positions.

comments@newsdigital.com

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Agudath Israel of America

-- here for Washington Leadership
Conference

HRC Remarks 6-29-99 at the White House

I just heard you were all here, I just wanted to come by to greet you on behalf of myself and on behalf of the President. I came rushing in and saw that Seth was speaking to you and saw that he was so erudite and hated to interrupt him and then Sec. Riley came and he is the final speaker and he has a lot to discuss with you. But I wanted to come by and just very briefly thank you for your concerns and advocacy on behalf of many important issues that affect the well being of people. Particularly people in need, and to stress again how committed the President and the Administration are to continuing the work for the next 18 months that we hope will provide better conditions for people. Whether it is improving the Medicare system and making prescription drugs available or doing something more to support families that need that kind of support. Changing the rules on working at home and some of the other challenges that people in today's world confront in the raising of children and the whole constellation of family issues that are critical to our well being.

The other point that I wanted to stress is something that I know you have been particularly concerned about and I believe probably Ambassador Seiple referenced it, but to reiterate the President's and the Administration's and my personal concern about the situation of Iranian Jews and I want you to know how personally committed the President is to raising this issue with the European allies. We both have had conversations with people that we hope are in a position to try to intervene and help on this matter. It's of very grave concern to the President and all of us who care about human rights and religious freedom. So there is a great deal of activity going on and a lot of intense work is being pursued, with the hope that the Iranian authorities will understand the world's grave and profound concern about their actions -- the recent imprisonment and what we considered to be bogus charges of espionage. This is something that we take extremely seriously. And any additional ideas that anyone has, I know you had that exchange with the Ambassador, but any other thoughts, we are literally pursuing any avenue that anyone suggests to us and we will continue to do so.

I'm delighted just to be able to come by to reach you all to thank you for your concern to thank you for carrying those concerns out into the larger community. To be willing to address issues that really are at the heart of the kind of people we are and the kind of country we are. And Debbie was already introducing Secretary Riley and I don't want to take anymore of his time, and I know this program is supposed to end shortly. I just want to reiterate that his commitment to education mirrors the President's and mine. Dick and I have come together on education longer than any of us care to disclose, but at least back to the early 1980's. We worked on healthcare issues and he and I worked very closely on improving infant mortality rates in the South that would rehabilitate in four states that had really high rates of maternal and infant mortality rates. This is unacceptable in the United States in the 1980s. So he has been someone who has great commitment to human concern and has enacted those to a life of public service, so with that I will let you get on with the business of introducing Secretary Riley.

To: Marsha Berry

From: MJ Rosenberg (Israel Policy Forum)

This article will appear in the NY Jewish Week, the largest circ Jewish paper in the US. It will appear along side a nasty piece by Morton Klein of the Zionist Organization of America attacking HRC as pro-Arab, etc. This is designed to hit back hard. I ran it by Howard Wolfson, a close friend. I discussed it with Sidney B. It will probably be signed by Karen Adler. Is it ok? Thanks.

MJ

202 842 1700

They are at it again. Supporters of some Republican candidates are smearing Democrats as "anti-Israel" in a reckless effort to steer Jewish voters their way. The latest target is Hillary Rodham Clinton, a likely candidate to replace the irreplaceable Daniel Patrick Moynihan as one of New York's two senators.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is a natural for New York, with special appeal to Jewish voters. Her efforts to reform health care, improve education, clean the environment and combat discrimination and hate crimes directed at all minorities, have made her a favorite in our community.

Ask our new senator Chuck Schumer. His campaign to unseat Al D'Amato last year looked like a squeaker, with a narrow Schumer win predicted. It was, for Schumer supporters, too close for comfort. Schumer asked Hillary to campaign for him throughout the state and ended up winning big, especially among Jews. Hillary's popularity in our community – coupled with her strong showing among women, African-Americans and union members – should give her an easy win in a state President Bill Clinton twice carried in landslides.

But not if she can be painted as anti-Israel. It's the same tactic that was used against Brooklyn's own Chuck Schumer, who had a 16 year record as Israel's most vigorous advocate in Congress. Forces in our community working on D'Amato's behalf – but pretending to be interested only in the welfare of Israel and the Jewish community – accused Chuck Schumer of being soft on Israel. Using the same tactics now being employed against Hillary, they whispered that he was known to associate with people hostile to Israel. They pointed to Congressional votes unrelated to Israel but which they deemed as "critical" to Israel's security and accused Schumer of voting "wrong." They said that he was indifferent to the murder of Yankel Rosenbaum in Crown Heights, hostile to the Orthodox community, and that he was a Jew "in name only."

Of course, none of the charges stuck. New York voters are way too sophisticated to fall for the big lie technique. Not even a supposed media genius like Republican strategist, Arthur

Finkelstein, could convince New Yorkers that Chuck Schumer (of all people) was indifferent to the future of Israel.

But the tactic itself must be condemned, especially when this new Mc Carthyism is employed in the name of our beloved Israel. Fifty years after the miraculous realization of Theodor Herzl's dream, it is deeply offensive to use Israel as some sort of club with which to beat people with whom you have partisan differences.

I cite Mc Carthyism because what we are seeing is the same bag of tricks Senator Joe Mc Carthy utilized in the 1950's. Lies, half-truths, and that old favorite "guilt by association." And just as Senator Mc Carthy's goal was scoring partisan points against Democratic President Truman and not in combatting Soviet Communism (if his target was the Communist threat, would he and his allies have targeted Jewish public school teachers in New York and Jewish film makers in Hollywood), so the new Mc Carthyists are not really going after a Schumer or a Clinton out of concern about Israel's security.

If they were, they would not be spreading lies and half-truths about a woman who has been actively involved in advancing Israel's cause ever since she was First Lady of Arkansas and became involved with an Israeli program to save disadvantaged youth. They would not be maligning a woman who has been at her husband's side during seven years of what every pro-Israel activist knows to be the most pro-Israel administration ever, an administration which unlike its Republican predecessors never once threatened to withhold vital US aid as a way of pressuring an Israeli government to accept policies it opposed. Instead, the Clinton Administration successfully pressured the Palestinians and Jordanians to accept Israel's right to exist and to end the state of war which had been the bane of Israel's existence since the beginning.

The result is obvious. Israel is at peace with its immediate neighbors and moving toward an agreement with Syria which will end the Lebanon disaster. Terrorism directed against Israelis is way down. From 73 Israelis killed in 1994, 45 in 1995 and 60 in 1996, the number of victims dropped to 12 in 1998 and to three for the first six months of this year. The reason for the drop, according to intelligence sources in Israel and the United States, is the joint security activity by Israelis and the Palestinian Authority. Prime Minister Netanyahu's telephone call to Yasir Arafat personally thanking him for thwarting a Hamas bombing in Tel Aviv in February demonstrates the enhanced security for Israel that derives from that famous handshake on the White House lawn. That is the handshake between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasir Arafat which President Clinton, with the invaluable support of Hillary Clinton, made happen. It's no wonder that those supporting her opponents prefer to talk about her comment about a future Palestinian state, a non-issue if there ever was one. With Israelis from Ehud Barak to Arik Sharon accepting the inevitability of a Palestinian state and dedicating themselves not to pointless propaganda but to ensuring that it does not threaten Israel, New York Jews are not going to buy into this shopworn tactic. Like AIPAC, which last month dropped its opposition to a Palestinian state, they know better.

The security of Israel must not be turned into a campaign issue by those pursuing a partisan or personal agenda. On the contrary, supporters of a secure Israel, an Israel at peace with its neighbors, should work to ensure that all candidates for high office understand the importance of Israel to Jews and to America. I am proud that my friend Hillary Clinton does.

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