

Chron

0



3-22-98

3-23-98

Should we send to
NSC?

Yes

no

March 20, 1998

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500-2000

Dear Mr. President:

To follow up on my thoughts regarding a public "blueprint" for action that you are considering to advance to the parties:

I am making the assumption that whatever public position you take, it will be along the lines of how you see the parties acting in order to get to final status talks. In other words, you might state that the U.S. suggestion is that Israel gives back up to 8-11 percent of the West Bank following its obligations under Oslo. Concurrently, Arafat must take those steps and use his best efforts to accomplish the Palestinian obligations under Oslo relating to security issues. Shortly thereafter, the parties would move into final status talks.

If that is the extent to which you are thinking, the U.S. should make public a proposal to move the stalled talks along. I believe you will stand a very good chance for success...both in the Middle East and at home.

Let me explain. Netanyahu enjoys a slim but currently firm support for his no land for peace, unless there is security, position. Although he is weak politically...within his own party and generally in the Knesset... the Labor Government is still fighting within itself to the point that, a concerted effort to bring down the government will not happen. In time, though, they will figure it out and Bibi's future will grow dimmer unless his fortunes change.

His fortunes will change when he does what the overwhelming majority of Israelis want him to do...give back the West Bank (only as much as required) in exchange for security and reasonable prospects for peace. He can do that only if the public gives him the kind of cover he needs to force his coalition to go along. There will always be those who will threaten to bring him down if he gives up any more land, regardless of the reason. However, if that were to happen, not only would Bibi's government collapse, but also those who helped scuttle him would have to face new elections. This, they are not excited to do because their chances to be returned would be diminished dramatically when the public sees what they hath wrought. So, there will be screaming and hand wringing, but Bibi should prevail.

I must emphasize that this will happen only if the "public" move you make is marketed properly to the Israeli people. They want to give the land back, they want security, and there is no question they are willing to trade one for the other. The media, too, is overwhelmingly supportive of that concept. What needs to happen, though, is the "bringing along" of the public at the same time you announce your plan.

3-22-98

Page 2,
March 20, 1998
President Clinton

As for Arafat, it seems he is in a more difficult place. But, he will be hard-pressed to turn down a ten percent give back coupled with the U.S. stamp of approval to move toward final status talks immediately after he does his security thing. The bottom line is that there are people on both sides who want to scuttle this whole thing but they cannot be heeded.

There are some practical reasons why Israelis favor the land returning to the Palestinians. In the first place, they are convinced that is the only way to lasting peace. Secondly, since the borders have been closed to most of the Palestinian workforce, Israel has imported foreign workers who are causing major problems within Israel. The people would much prefer a "non-intimidating" Palestinian workforce to what they have now. And thirdly, most Israelis are uncomfortable being occupiers. It goes against what they believe and how they ultimately want to live. Giving back much of the West Bank will relieve them of that guilt.

The key to all this, of course, is that any give back must result in a more secure and peaceful Israel which will put pressure on Arafat to not only talk the talk but put himself in harm's way to make that walk.

On the domestic front, you know as well as I that there is a significant minority in the United States' Jewish community that neither wants peace or wants to even acknowledge any Arab rights in the region. Not much we can do about them. Nevertheless, the vast majority of Jewish people in this country will be happy if they believe that the Israeli people are happy. In short, if you can get the Israelis on your side so that they give Bibi the cover he needs, the community over here will support you to the hilt. I know I do not need to say it but I will. Whatever you do must not have even the hint of U.S. economic pressure on Israel if she balks.

I hope this has been helpful. I loved our visit and I am grateful you sought my advice. I hope we will be able to do more. Best of luck on your Africa trip and remember it has to be okay to talk to people who want to talk to you. Thanks again for what you have done for Elias.

Respectfully,



Brian

To:

3-22-98

Dorothy
Sat Ravi
adams

Mr.

President

DAN BURKHARDT

please coordinate the
reply.

To Mr.

President

Dear Mr. President, 3-22-98

I am honored to be able to meet you. Especially because I am going to do a book talk on you this week. The book I am going to talk about is called

Our president: Bill Clinton,

By Shelley Bedik.

Actually I am going to do a character book talk where I dress up and act like you.

Recently my family and I have gone to California for a barmitzvah for my cousin

Abel Levin. One time when you were in California my grandma, Ann Lewis took Abel to meet you.

I play basketball and piano.

I also know that you play a instrument too.

Best of Luck,

Jennifer Isakowitz

From Matthew Isakowitz

Do. reply
Just radio
admn

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
3-2-98

President Clinton

DAN BURKHARDT

please coordinate the
reply.

March 21, 1998

Dear Mr. President,

Hello. My name is Matthew Isakowitz. I'm not going to talk about myself that much, but I would like to introduce myself.

I'm ten years old. I'm also Jewish and I go to Hebrew school. I have played piano for four years now, and I am on a swim team. I've lived in Virginia for seven years. Next week I'm going to Richmond to compete in the State Geography Bee.

My dad, Steve Isakowitz, is chief of the Science and Space branch of the Office of Management and Budget. My grandmother, Ann Lewis, is the White House Communications Director. My grandfather, Mike Sponder also works for you.

I'm going to ask you some questions, which I'd appreciate if you answered them.

What is it like to be the most powerful person in the most powerful nation on Earth?

If my 5/6th grade class sent a letter to you, would you read it personally?

What do you think has been your biggest accomplishment in the White House so far?

By the way, I think you are a great President. All the papers talk about the balanced budget, the low unemployment rate, the booming economy, and all the good things you've done. You've obviously been a good president to have been re-elected.

Also, I'd like to tell you something interesting. When I came home from temple last night, my dad showed me a business card. The name on it was BUZZ ALDRIN, Apollo 11 ASTRONAUT. Dad had delivered a speech earlier that day about space science, and Buzz Aldrin handed the card to him and said, "I liked your speech." Wow!

Good Luck and Goodbye,

Matthew Isakowitz



Orthodox Union

UNION OF
ORTHODOX
JEWISH
CONGREGATIONS
OF AMERICA

איחוד
קהילות
האורתודוקסים

באמצעות
98 MAR 23 PM 4:10

333 SEVENTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10001 • (212) 563-4000 • FAX (212) 564-9058

ב"ה

KASHRUTH DIVISION March 16, 1998

President
MANDELL I. GANCHROW, M.D.

Chairman
PROF. SHIMON KWESTEL

Vice Chairman
DAVID FUND

Rabbinic Administrator
RABBI MENACHEM GENACK

Rabbinic Administrator (1950-1972)
RABBI ALEXANDER S. ROSENBERG

Ms. Ann Lewis
Assistant to the President
Director of Communications
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20502

Dear Ann,

Enclosed please find the next missive to the President, entitled
"Neglected Verses". The author is Sid Z. Leiman, who is Professor of Jewish
History and Literature at Brooklyn College.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Menachem Genack

3-23-98

Send to Millie?

Yes ☒

No ☐

C.

Neglected Verses

Some biblical verses -- lacking the grandeur of "Love your neighbor as Yourself" (Lev. 19:18) or "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13) -- tend to be overlooked. Often, these neglected verses preserve profound moral teachings, but unless ferreted out by a determined reader, the moral teachings go unnoticed. A sample follows.

At Genesis 15, God enters into a covenant with Abraham. He informs Abraham that his descendants will inherit the Promised Land. However, God explains, those descendants must first go down to Egypt, where they will serve as slaves for some four hundred years, after which they -- the fourth generation from Abraham -- will return to the Promised Land, "for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete" (Gen. 15:19).

What does "for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete" mean? The Amorites were the native residents of the Promised Land during the lifetime of Abraham. They too merited living in the Promised Land. God informs Abraham that all of Israelite history will be postponed for some four hundred years because the Israelites cannot enter the Promised Land until its native inhabitants -- the Amorites -- no longer merit living there. God is the Lord of the entire universe, and not only the God of Israel. He must be a just God to all, Israelites and Amorites. It is true that He promised the land to Abraham and his descendants. But only when the sins of the Amorites have accumulated to a point where they no longer merit living there, can God fulfil his promise to Abraham. The force, then, of "for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete" is that God is just to all nations and persons. He cannot reward one nation or person at the expense of another. He metes out justice evenhandedly.

Sid Z. Leiman

Sid Z. Leiman
Professor of Jewish History
and Literature
Brooklyn College