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White House Statement on Proposed Disaster Relief Legislation September 8, 1992

Today the President submitted to the Congress emergency supplemental requests to cover the incremental costs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Andrew and Typhoon Omar. The requests are for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business Administration (SBA), and most of the Cabinet Departments. The requested funds represent a Federal financial response to address the effects of Hurricane Andrew and Typhoon Omar of over \$7.6 billion in budgetary resources.

The requests for emergency and related supplemental appropriations for FY 1992 total \$2,911.6 million in budget authority and would support additional loan activity of over \$3 billion. These funds will be used for a comprehensive range of disaster-related activities including direct assistance to individuals, infrastructure repair, human services, and law enforcement. The additional availability of loans will assist in building and rebuilding homes, facilitate economic recovery through small business loans, and help farmers who have suffered the loss of structures and crops.

In addition to direct emergency and related appropriations, contingent funds of \$143 million for FEMA and \$75 million in budget authority for SBA (which would support an additional \$350 million of new loans) are requested to replenish the depleted contingency funds of these Agencies. Establishment of a disaster-related contingency fund within Funds Appropriated to the President is also requested for \$350 million in unanticipated disaster-related needs. These contingent appropriations would become available upon the President's transmittal of subsequent budget requests to the Congress designating each such request as an emergency requirement.

In addition to these emergency funding requirements, \$983.9 million in nonemergency funding is requested for the Department of Defense. Of this amount, \$205.6 million will be used for replacement of facilities and equipment, cleanup activities, and military personnel support costs stemming from Ty-

phoon Omar in Guam; \$297.7 million will be used for similar costs stemming from Hurricane Andrew; and \$480.6 million will be used to rebuild the facilities destroyed at Homestead Air Force Base.

The President requested that the legislation in which these funds are provided be kept free of extraneous matters "in order that there may be a minimum of delay in providing necessary funds to the disaster areas."

The President has designated all of the requests, other than the three contingency requests and the request for appropriations to the Department of Defense, as emergency requirements pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of these requests are described in an attachment.

Note: Attached to the statement were detailed descriptions of Agencies' specific programs and budget requests. That material is available at the White House Publication Office.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at the B'nai B'rith International Convention September 8, 1992

The President. Thank you, Senator. Thank you all very much. Please be seated, and thank you. Let me just say what a joy it is to have been introduced by Rudy Boschwitz. The Senate still misses him. He is my friend, and so you can discount some of those kind words. But I'll tell you it was awfully thoughtful of you, Kent and others, to ask Rudy to present me here to this most prestigious order, this group. And thank you for the kind introduction. And Kent, thank you, sir, for what I understand is an extraordinarily successful meeting getting underway. May I salute Ambassador Shoval, with whom we are working very closely, Israel's Ambassador here in the United States. And of course, the B'nai B'rith leadership who graciously met me when I came here. And to everyone else, it's an honor to be with you today.

Administration of George Bush

Let me express at this personal observation. I was a good friend of George Kl... this, but I want to express a good friend of everybody that is Max Fisher, who today, regrettably is in... to him, and I'm sure he's in spirit, that Max Fisher is still just as wonderful... imagine and hope for.

Now, we have witnessed about this, a world of change comes new challenges at the end of the cold war of a new era, a new era of a nation that America simply. In the new world, foreign policy, and domestic political issue. And in order to States must be not only power but an export super economic superpower as well.

Yet we know that America more than the strength of by the content of our character serve others. And this is out, to help those in need all the divides of color and our shared human spirit B'rith is all about. For I members of this organization... ful of other organizations... tion's conscience. And patience must always be to and other forms of prejudice whenever they appear. I President, that I could state today say that anti-Semitism not, not when there are... home, brownshirts abroad... commentary on human nature.

Let's all be clear: A world Jews to be persecuted is allow other tyrannies to... not helpless. And we're about it. In this country, employing the Hate Crime justice those who traffic in Semitism is an evil idea we. And I'll do my utmost, to that prejudice is finally, finished from the human heart.

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Let me express at the outset another personal observation. I was just talking to my good friend George Klein, and others about this, but I want to express my concerns for a good friend of everybody in this room, and that is Max Fisher, who was to be with us today, regrettably is in the hospital. I talked to him, and I'm sure he'll be just fine. That spirit, that Max Fisher spirit and optimism is still just as wonderful as you can possibly imagine and hope for.

Now, we have witnessed, and Rudy talked about this, a world of change. And with change comes new challenges. For America, the end of the cold war means the beginning of a new era, a new era of economic competition that America simply must and will win. In the new world, foreign policy, economic policy, and domestic policy have become one issue. And in order to prevail, the United States must be not only a military superpower but an export superpower and an economic superpower as well.

Yet we know that America is measured by more than the strength of our economy, also by the content of our character and how we serve others. And this willingness to reach out, to help those in need, to recognize across all the divides of color and culture and creed our shared human spirit, this is what B'nai B'rith is all about. For 150 years, the members of this organization have joined a handful of other organizations serving as the Nation's conscience. And part of America's conscience must always be to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice wherever and whenever they appear. I wish very much, as President, that I could stand before you and today say that anti-Semitism is history. It's not, not when there are hate crimes here at home, brownshirts abroad. That's a sorry commentary on human nature.

Let's all be clear: A world willing to allow Jews to be persecuted is a world certain to allow other tyrannies to emerge. But we're not helpless. And we're doing something about it. In this country, we are aggressively employing the Hate Crimes Act to bring to justice those who traffic in the gutter. Anti-Semitism is an evil idea with an ugly history. And I'll do my utmost, here and abroad, so that prejudice is finally, finally banished from the human heart.

In the end, anti-Semitism and prejudice mock and threaten the basic principles upon which the United States is founded. In a letter to the Hebrew congregation of Rhode Island, George Washington wrote, "... the government of the United States . . . gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance. . . . While everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid." And here's the difference, the vital difference that sets apart our American creed. For us, freedom of religion is no gift of Government, no privilege to be granted or withheld. It is a fundamental human right.

We can take heart that this American creed is spreading, that people in our time are demanding and getting those rights that they've been denied so long. Changes in our world have come so fast that I say they are nothing short of Biblical, and by that I mean just plain old-fashioned miraculous. Just think about it. Just a few years ago, who would have thought we would no longer live under that horrible threat of nuclear conflagration? Who would have thought the scarring symbol of an era, the divisive Berlin Wall, would be found only in museums or chipped into paperweights? And above all, who would have predicted the Soviet Union would be found only in the pages of history?

And know this: The miracles aren't only confined to Europe. In the Middle East, events have defied all predictions. Today, direct bilateral talks are taking place between Israel and her neighbors. You may recall that we were told we couldn't succeed, we couldn't bring the parties together. But we did. And I want to dwell for a moment on this breakthrough, because I know it matters deeply to everyone in this hall. Let me take you back nearly a year ago to another hall in Madrid. There, gathered around the table, were representatives of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Palestinians, and Israel. For nearly half a century they had not met all together outside the battlefield. But for the first time they came together not to fight but to talk. I'll never forget as long as I live walking into the meeting room. Then-President Gorbachev was at my side. We were the ones that were to open the meeting; you may remember that. And you could cut the tension

B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 8, 1992
11:00 A.M.

THANK YOU, RUDY, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.
KENT SCHINER. AMBASSADOR SHOVAL. THE B'NAI B'RITH
LEADERSHIP. TO EVERYONE. IT IS AN HONOR TO BE WITH
YOU TODAY. AND LET ME EXPRESS MY CONCERNS FOR MY GOOD
FRIEND MAX FISHER, WHO WAS TO BE WITH US TODAY....

WE'VE WITNESSED A WORLD OF CHANGE, AND WITH CHANGE
COMES NEW CHALLENGES. FOR AMERICA, THE END OF THE COLD
WAR MEANS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA -- A NEW ERA OF
ECONOMIC COMPETITION THAT AMERICA SIMPLY MUST AND WILL
WIN. IN THE NEW WORLD, FOREIGN POLICY, ECONOMIC POLICY
AND DOMESTIC POLICY HAVE BECOME ONE ISSUE. IN ORDER TO
PREVAIL, THE UNITED STATES MUST BE NOT ONLY A MILITARY
SUPERPOWER, BUT AN ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER -- AN EXPORT
SUPERPOWER AS WELL. //

YET WE KNOW THAT AMERICA IS MEASURED BY MORE THAN
THE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY, BUT ALSO BY THE CONTENT OF
OUR CHARACTER -- HOW WE SERVE OTHERS.

THIS WILLINGNESS TO REACH OUT, TO HELP THOSE IN NEED -- TO RECOGNIZE ACROSS ALL THE DIVIDES OF COLOR AND CULTURE AND CREED OUR SHARED HUMAN SPIRIT -- THIS IS WHAT B'NAI B'RITH IS ALL ABOUT. FOR 150 YEARS, THE MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, HAVE JOINED A HANDFUL OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SERVING AS THE NATION'S CONSCIENCE. AND PART OF AMERICA'S CONSCIENCE MUST ALWAYS BE TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER FORMS OF PREJUDICE WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THEY APPEAR.

I WISH THAT I COULD STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY AND SAY THAT ANTI-SEMITISM IS HISTORY, BUT IT IS NOT. NOT WHEN THERE ARE HATE CRIMES HERE AT HOME AND BROWN SHIRTS ABROAD. THAT'S A SORRY COMMENTARY ON HUMAN NATURE.

LET'S ALL BE CLEAR: A WORLD WILLING TO ALLOW JEWS TO BE PERSECUTED IS A WORLD CERTAIN TO ALLOW OTHER TYRANNIES TO EMERGE. BUT WE'RE NOT HELPLESS. AND WE'RE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT. // IN THIS COUNTRY, WE ARE AGGRESSIVELY EMPLOYING THE HATE CRIMES ACT TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE WHO TRAFFIC IN THE GUTTER. / ANTI-SEMITISM IS AN EVIL IDEA WITH AN UGLY HISTORY. / I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MY UTMOST, HERE AND ABROAD, SO THAT PREJUDICE IS FINALLY / FINALLY / FINALLY, BANISHED FROM THE HUMAN HEART. //

IN THE END, ANTI-SEMITISM AND PREJUDICE MOCK AND THREATEN THE BASIC PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS FOUNDED.

IN A LETTER TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATION OF RHODE ISLAND, GEORGE WASHINGTON WROTE "...THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES... GIVES TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE.... WHILE EVERYONE SHALL SIT IN SAFETY UNDER HIS OWN VINE AND FIGTREE, AND THERE SHALL BE NONE TO MAKE HIM AFRAID." AND HERE'S THE DIFFERENCE, THE VITAL DIFFERENCE THAT SETS APART OUR AMERICAN CREED. FOR US, FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS NO GIFT OF GOVERNMENT -- NO PRIVILEGE TO BE GRANTED OR WITHHELD -- IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT. //

LET'S TAKE HEART THAT THIS AMERICAN CREED IS SPREADING, THAT PEOPLE IN OUR TIME ARE DEMANDING AND GETTING THOSE RIGHTS THEY HAVE BEEN DENIED SO LONG. AND CHANGES IN OUR WORLD HAVE COME SO FAST THAT I SAY THEY ARE NOTHING SHORT OF BIBLICAL -- AND BY THAT I MEAN JUST PLAIN OLD-FASHIONED MIRACULOUS.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT. JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WE WOULD NO LONGER LIVE UNDER THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR CONFLAGRATION? WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE SCARRING SYMBOL OF AN ERA -- THE BERLIN WALL -- WOULD BE FOUND ONLY IN MUSEUMS AND CHIPPED INTO PAPERWEIGHTS? ABOVE ALL, WHO WOULD HAVE PREDICTED THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE FOUND ONLY IN THE PAGES OF HISTORY?

AND KNOW THIS: THE MIRACLES AREN'T ONLY CONFINED TO EUROPE. IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EVENTS HAVE DEFIED ALL THE PREDICTIONS. TODAY, DIRECT, BILATERAL TALKS ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HER NEIGHBORS.

YOU MAY RECALL WE WERE TOLD WE COULDN'T SUCCEED -- WE COULDN'T BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER. BUT WE DID.

I WANT TO DWELL FOR A MOMENT ON THIS BREAKTHROUGH, BECAUSE I KNOW IT MATTERS DEEPLY TO EVERYONE IN THIS HALL. LET ME TAKE YOU BACK NEARLY A YEAR AGO TO ANOTHER HALL, IN MADRID. THERE, GATHERED AROUND THE TABLE WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF LEBANON, JORDAN, SYRIA, EGYPT, PALESTINIANS -- AND ISRAEL. FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY THEY HAD NOT MET, ALL TOGETHER, OUTSIDE THE BATTLEFIELD. BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY CAME TOGETHER NOT TO FIGHT -- BUT TO TALK.

I'LL NEVER FORGET WALKING INTO THE MEETING ROOM -- THEN PRESIDENT GORBACHEV AT MY SIDE. YOU COULD CUT THE TENSION WITH A KNIFE, BUT WHEN GORBACHEV AND I SPOKE AFTERWARDS WE BOTH AGREED IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC MOMENTS IN RECENT HISTORY.

THEN, AS NOW, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST A CEASEFIRE OR A TRUCE, BUT PEACE, REAL PEACE. NOT SIMPLY THE END OF WAR -- BUT GENUINE RECONCILIATION. A PEACE BOTH BROAD AND DEEP, A PEACE CODIFIED BY TREATIES, AND GIVEN LIFE BY TRADE AND TOURISM, BY OPEN BORDERS -- THE FABRIC OF PEACE KNIT TOGETHER EVEN MORE TIGHTLY BY THE SIMPLE HUMAN CONTACT OF PEOPLES WHO'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FAR TOO LONG AS ENEMIES. A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. A PEACE THAT AT LONG LAST WILL ALLOW THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST TO TURN THEIR ENERGIES, THEIR RESOURCES, THEIR LIVES TO CREATION RATHER THAN DESTRUCTION -- TO GREAT WORKS RATHER THAN GREAT WARS.

TODAY, AS WE SPEAK, PARTIES THAT MET FIRST AT MADRID ARE MID-WAY THROUGH THE SIXTH ROUND OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS. DELEGATIONS ARE EXCHANGING NOT ONLY HANDSHAKES, BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME -- WRITTEN PROPOSALS. PUBLIC POSTURING HAS DECREASED -- AND MEANINGFUL PRIVATE DIALOGUE HAS INCREASED.

OF COURSE, MAJOR HURDLES REMAIN. IT WILL TAKE TIME AND EFFORT AND COURAGE AND TRUST. BUT THERE IS CLEARLY A WAY -- AND INCREASINGLY, A WILL.

THE EVIDENCE IS MOUNTING: THE MANY POSITIVE STEPS TAKEN BY ISRAEL'S NEW GOVERNMENT THAT IMPROVE DAY-TO-DAY LIFE FOR PALESTINIANS AND SIGNAL ITS SERIOUSNESS ABOUT PEACE -- EGYPT'S INVITATION THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR PRIME MINISTER RABIN TO MAKE HIS FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE ISRAEL TO AN ARAB COUNTRY -- SYRIA'S RELAXATION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING ITS JEWISH CITIZENS. FURTHER GESTURES, SUCH AS AN END TO THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL, CAN ONLY HELP IN BRINGING ABOUT AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE FOR NEGOTIATION AND RECONCILIATION. I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME TO SEE THAT BOYCOTT ENDED. //

I AM PROUD OF THE ROLE WE'VE PLAYED IN BREAKING THE LONG-STANDING TABOO AGAINST DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HER NEIGHBORS. ISRAEL SOUGHT DIRECT TALKS FOR 43 YEARS -- AND IT WAS RIGHT TO DO SO. IF YOU DO NOT TALK -- YOU CAN HAVE NO HOPE OF MAKING PEACE. NOW, THERE IS SUCH A HOPE.

I'M ALSO PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO END ISRAEL'S DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION INTERNATIONALLY. WE FINALLY SUCCEEDED -- AFTER 16 YEARS OF EFFORT -- IN GETTING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REPEAL WHAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ENACTED IN THE FIRST PLACE. ZIONISM IS NOT RACISM -- NOT BEFORE / NOT NOW / NOT EVER. //

AND THANKS IN LARGE PART TO OUR EFFORTS, CHINA AND INDIA AND TURKEY AND MANY OTHER NATIONS -- COUNTRIES REPRESENTING MORE THAN 2 BILLION PEOPLE -- NOW HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. ALREADY THIS HAS CREATED NOT ONLY GREATER CONTACT FOR ISRAEL WORLDWIDE, BUT NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

AND I KNOW THIS AUDIENCE KNOWS OF OUR EFFORTS TO OPEN THE GATES TO JEWS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND ALSO TO RESCUE ETHIOPIAN JEWS.

YOU KNOW, FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN I SPOKE TO YOU IN BALTIMORE, I NOTICED A BANNER HUNG ON THE WALL THAT READ: WHERE DO SOVIET JEWS APPLY FOR GLASNOST?

AS I PREPARED TO COME HERE TODAY, I THOUGHT OF THAT BANNER. I THOUGHT OF THE HOPES WE HAD THEN -- AND I THOUGHT OF A PLEDGE I MADE: THAT IN EVERY SINGLE MEETING WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS, I WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWS. //

MY FRIENDS, I COULD NOT FORGET THAT BANNER -- I DID NOT FORGET THAT PLEDGE -- AND TODAY, TOGETHER, WE CELEBRATE THIS MIRACLE: NEARLY HALF A MILLION JEWS HAVE COME OUT OF THE SOVIET UNION -- TO FREEDOM. TO AMERICA. TO ISRAEL. //

PERSUADING PARTIES TO SIT DOWN FACE-TO-FACE TO TALK
PEACE / ENDING ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION /
ASSISTING IN THE IN-GATHERING OF JEWS INTO ISRAEL:
THESE ARE THE THREE GREAT AIMS THAT HAVE GUIDED ISRAEL
FROM ITS FOUNDING. AND WE DIDN'T JUST TALK ABOUT
HELPING ISRAEL IN THESE AREAS -- WE DELIVERED. THAT'S
A FACT OF WHICH EVERY AMERICAN CAN BE PROUD.

AND HERE'S ANOTHER FACT. WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN,
WHEN MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ISRAEL, WERE THREATENED
BY THE MOST BRUTAL AGGRESSION, AMERICA WAS THERE. WE
STOPPED SADDAM HUSSEIN.

AND THAT TERRIBLE TIME WHEN THE WORLD FEARED THAT
THE COLD WAR WOULD BE REPLACED BY A NEW AGE OF SADDAM -
- THAT'S OVER, TOO.

I KNEW WHEN I TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE, THAT EVERY PRESIDENT FACES DIFFICULT DECISIONS -- AND THERE IS NO DECISION MORE DIFFICULT THAN SENDING THIS COUNTRY'S YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN INTO COMBAT. IN THE END, IT COMES DOWN TO THIS: YOU CANNOT MAKE THAT KIND OF DECISION - - UNLESS YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS AT STAKE.

I KNEW WHAT WAS AT STAKE.

AND BECAUSE OF THE BRAVERY OF AMERICA'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN DESERT STORM -- AMERICA TODAY IS SAFER.
ISRAEL TODAY IS SAFER. //

ASK YOURSELF WHERE THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE TODAY - - WHERE ISRAEL'S SECURITY WOULD BE TODAY -- IF WE HAD FOLLOWED THE COUNSEL OF MY CRITICS.

ASK YOURSELF WHERE WE WOULD BE IF WE HAD SOMEONE IN THE OVAL OFFICE WHO WOULD HAVE WAFFLED -- WHO WOULD HAVE WAVERED AND WANTED TO HAVE IT BOTH WAYS.

LISTEN TO MY OPPONENT'S VERY OWN WORDS ON WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MY LEAD, AND DRAWN A LINE IN THE SAND: -- AND I QUOTE -- "I GUESS I WOULD HAVE VOTED WITH THE MAJORITY IF IT WAS A CLOSE VOTE. BUT I AGREE WITH THE ARGUMENTS THE MINORITY MADE."

WHERE WOULD WE BE? I'LL TELL YOU: WE'D BE FACING A NUCLEAR-ARMED IRAQ, DOMINANT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH A CHOKE-HOLD ON THE WORLD'S OIL SUPPLIES. AN IRAQ THAT SHOWED THAT AGGRESSION AGAINST ONE'S NEIGHBORS CAN GO UNCHECKED. AN IRAQ THREATENING ISRAEL'S VERY EXISTENCE. ISRAEL'S VERY SURVIVAL WOULD BE AT STAKE - - AND WE'D BE TALKING ABOUT WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CHANCE TO AVOID NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WELL, DESERT STORM SWEEPED AWAY THAT NIGHTMARE AND BECAUSE OF AMERICA'S COURAGE TODAY, WE NOW HAVE THE CHANCE TO SEE THE DAWN OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE. THE MIDDLE EAST -
- INDEED, THE WORLD -- IS STILL A DANGEROUS PLACE.
TERRORISTS CONTINUE TO TARGET THE INNOCENT. THE
PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CASTS A
CLOUD OVER THE REGION'S FUTURE. IRAQ'S SADDAM HUSSEIN,
HOWEVER MUCH WEAKER, DEFEATED, AND LOCKED IN THE PRISON
OF HIS OWN COUNTRY -- STILL BRUTALIZES HIS OWN PEOPLE
AND RESISTS THE WILL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.
THE NEED FOR ISRAEL TO REMAIN STRONG IS BEYOND
QUESTION, AND IT CLEARLY INCLUDES HAVING A DEFENSIVE
CAPABILITY AGAINST MISSILE ATTACK. SCUD ATTACKS ON
ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE MADE THAT CLEAR TO EVERYONE. FOR
THAT REASON, I'VE PROPOSED TO ISRAEL THAT IT
PARTICIPATE IN OUR DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL PROTECTION
SYSTEM. //

AND LET ME SAY TO YOU: YOU OUGHT TO TAKE A GOOD, CLOSE LOOK AT ANYONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE A FRIEND OF ISRAEL -- AT ANYONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT ISRAEL'S SECURITY -- BUT OPPOSES DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEFENSES LIKE GPALS THAT MAY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY FOR ISRAEL TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST MISSILE ATTACK? //

THE POINT IS: THE NEED FOR US-ISRAELI STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER.

AND WE'RE ALSO GOING TO SEE THAT PARTNERSHIP AT WORK THIS WEEK. BECAUSE I AM HAPPY TO TELL YOU THAT I AM SENDING TO THE CONGRESS LEGISLATION REQUESTING UP TO \$10 BILLION IN LOAN GUARANTEES TO AID ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT IN WELCOMING ITS IMMIGRANTS. AND I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF EVERY ONE IN THIS ROOM TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS PROPOSAL BECOMES LAW. / AND DON'T LET ANY MEMBER OF CONGRESS TELL YOU WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DO THIS. WE CAN -- AND WE MUST. //

AND TODAY, I ASK YOU: TAKE THAT MESSAGE TO CAPITOL HILL.

I AM GLAD THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND I WERE ABLE TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON LOAN GUARANTEES WHEN WE MET IN KENNEBUNKPORT LAST MONTH. HE OUTLINED FOR ME THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S NEW PRIORITIES, COMMITTED TO INVESTING IN ISRAEL ITSELF, AND STOOD DETERMINED TO AVOID STEPS THAT COULD HAMPER PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. I SHARE THAT COMMITMENT. AND, AS A RESULT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROMOTE PEACE AND WELCOME NEW IMMIGRANTS AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME. BOTH ARE HUMANITARIAN UNDERTAKINGS; BOTH DESERVE OUR FULL SUPPORT. IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM, AND I AM GLAD THAT WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO PROMOTE BOTH OBJECTIVES.

AS FOR THE FUTURE, I AM CONFIDENT THAT ON MOST ISSUES, ON MOST OCCASIONS, WE AND ISRAEL WILL FIND OURSELVES IN AGREEMENT. I, FOR ONE, AM COMMITTED TO REVITALIZING THE TRADITION OF FULL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF ISSUES AFFECTING STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I KNOW PRIME MINISTER RABIN SHARES THIS COMMITMENT. AND LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS POINT: THERE WILL BE NO SURPRISES.

OUR SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND ITS SECURITY IS NOT SIMPLY A POLICY. IT IS A PRINCIPLE. AS I SAID AFTER PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND I MET IN MAINE, THIS IS A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON A SHARED COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND COMMON VALUES, AS WELL AS A SOLID COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY, INCLUDING ITS QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE. THIS IS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, ONE SPECIALLY BUILT TO ENDURE.

THIS RELATIONSHIP IS IMPORTANT -- ESPECIALLY NOW, AS WE ENTER A NEW ERA OF UNCERTAINTY. OLD EMPIRES ARE DYING AND NEW NATIONS BEING BORN. THIS IS A TIME WHEN A NATION NEEDS TO KNOW WHO IT CAN COUNT ON. ISRAEL HAS A STABILITY OF PURPOSE -- A STRENGTH OF SPIRIT THAT HAS SEEN IT THROUGH DARK DAYS. WE KNOW: ISRAEL WILL BE THERE FOR US. JUST AS WE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ISRAEL. //

NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN WE DISAGREE. EVEN FRIENDS DISAGREE. AMERICA WILL HAVE DISAGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL -- JUST AS WE SOMETIMES DISAGREE WITH CANADA AND FRANCE AND GERMANY AND BRITAIN. THOSE DIFFERENCES ARE SIGNS OF THE DURABILITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP -- OF THE DEMOCRATIC BONDS WE SHARE. THE POINT IS THIS: THESE ARE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRIENDS AND I EMPHASIZE THAT WORD, FRIENDS.

THERE MAY EVEN BE ISSUES WHERE YOU AND I WILL TAKE OPPOSING SIDES. AND THINGS MAY GET HOT AND WORDS MAY BE EXCHANGED. // IN THE PAST, SOME REMARKS OF MINE WERE MISINTERPRETED. I HAVE GONE ON THE RECORD EXPRESSING MY REGRET FOR ANY PAIN THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED. AGAIN I MAKE IT CLEAR, I SUPPORT, I ENDORSE, AND I DEEPLY BELIEVE IN THE GOD-GIVEN RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO PROMOTE WHAT THEY BELIEVE. IT IS YOUR RIGHT AS AN INDIVIDUAL. IT'S MORE THAN A RIGHT. IT'S YOUR DUTY AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.//

BUT LET ME ALSO SAY THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE LEARN HOW TO DISAGREE. THE WAY DEMOCRACIES ENGAGE IN DEBATE IS NOT WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE -- IT IS A MARK OF CIVILITY AND FREEDOM. I HARDLY NEED TO TELL ANYONE IN THIS ROOM JUST WHAT ANTI-SEMITISM IS. AS MY FRIEND ABE FOXMAN OF THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE HAS POINTED OUT, TO ACCUSE THOSE WHO MAY COME TO DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS ON ONE OR ANOTHER PUBLIC ISSUE OF HARBORING ANTI-SEMITISM IS TO CHEAPEN THE TERM. THAT IS DANGEROUS. THAT IS DEEPLY WRONG. AND WHEN THOSE WORDS, WITHOUT JUSTICE, HAVE BEEN AIMED AT ME -- I CAN TELL YOU: THEY CUT TO THE HEART. //

BUT LET'S PUT ALL OF THIS ASIDE NOW AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE. I'VE TALKED TO YOU HERE ABOUT MY OPTIMISM FOR THAT FUTURE. WE COME TOGETHER AT A BLESSED TIME. THE COLD WAR IS OVER. AND ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE TALKS HAVE BEGUN.

THERE IS ANOTHER REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL SOON EXERCISE THEIR UNBROKEN TWO HUNDRED YEAR DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO ELECT A PRESIDENT. AND I'M OPTIMISTIC TOO ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THAT NEW PRESIDENT -- THERE I GO AGAIN SOUNDING LIKE HARRY TRUMAN. / BUT, LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH THIS. HOWEVER IT TURNS OUT, COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, TO TOLERANCE AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA AND AROUND THE WORLD WILL NOT CHANGE.

YOU ARE MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY THAT HAS A LONG AND GREAT TRADITION OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. B'NAI B'RITH STANDS FOR OPPORTUNITY, FOR TOLERANCE, FOR OPPOSITION TO ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE UGLY FACE OF HATE IN ALL ITS FORMS. YOU STAND TOO FOR STALWART SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S CLOSE FRIEND AND ALLY, ISRAEL.

AND, LET ME SIMPLY SAY THAT ON ALL THESE ISSUES, I
AM PROUD TO STAND WITH YOU. //

THANK YOU. MAY GOD BLESS THE STATE OF ISRAEL --
AND MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

#

B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 8, 1992
11:00 A.M.

THANK YOU, RUDY, FOR THAT VERY KIND INTRODUCTION.
KENT SCHINER. AMBASSADOR SHOVAL. THE B'NAI B'RITH
LEADERSHIP. TO EVERYONE. IT IS AN HONOR TO BE WITH
YOU TODAY. AND LET ME EXPRESS MY CONCERNS FOR MY GOOD
FRIEND MAX FISHER, WHO WAS TO BE WITH US TODAY....

WE'VE WITNESSED A WORLD OF CHANGE, AND WITH CHANGE
COMES NEW CHALLENGES. FOR AMERICA, THE END OF THE COLD
WAR MEANS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA -- A NEW ERA OF
ECONOMIC COMPETITION THAT AMERICA SIMPLY MUST AND WILL
WIN. IN THE NEW WORLD, FOREIGN POLICY, ECONOMIC POLICY
AND DOMESTIC POLICY HAVE BECOME ONE ISSUE. IN ORDER TO
PREVAIL, THE UNITED STATES MUST BE NOT ONLY A MILITARY
SUPERPOWER, BUT AN ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER -- AN EXPORT
SUPERPOWER AS WELL. //

YET WE KNOW THAT AMERICA IS MEASURED BY MORE THAN
THE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY, BUT ALSO BY THE CONTENT OF
OUR CHARACTER -- HOW WE SERVE OTHERS.

THIS WILLINGNESS TO REACH OUT, TO HELP THOSE IN NEED -- TO RECOGNIZE ACROSS ALL THE DIVIDES OF COLOR AND CULTURE AND CREED OUR SHARED HUMAN SPIRIT -- THIS IS WHAT B'NAI B'RITH IS ALL ABOUT. FOR 150 YEARS, THE MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, HAVE JOINED A HANDFUL OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SERVING AS THE NATION'S CONSCIENCE. AND PART OF AMERICA'S CONSCIENCE MUST ALWAYS BE TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER FORMS OF PREJUDICE WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THEY APPEAR.

I WISH THAT I COULD STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY AND SAY THAT ANTI-SEMITISM IS HISTORY, BUT IT IS NOT. NOT WHEN THERE ARE HATE CRIMES HERE AT HOME AND BROWN SHIRTS ABROAD. THAT'S A SORRY COMMENTARY ON HUMAN NATURE.

LET'S ALL BE CLEAR: A WORLD WILLING TO ALLOW JEWS TO BE PERSECUTED IS A WORLD CERTAIN TO ALLOW OTHER TYRANNIES TO EMERGE. BUT WE'RE NOT HELPLESS. AND WE'RE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT. // IN THIS COUNTRY, WE ARE AGGRESSIVELY EMPLOYING THE HATE CRIMES ACT TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE WHO TRAFFIC IN THE GUTTER. / ANTI-SEMITISM IS AN EVIL IDEA WITH AN UGLY HISTORY. / I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MY UTMOST, HERE AND ABROAD, SO THAT PREJUDICE IS FINALLY / FINALLY / FINALLY, BANISHED FROM THE HUMAN HEART. //

IN THE END, ANTI-SEMITISM AND PREJUDICE MOCK AND THREATEN THE BASIC PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS FOUNDED.

IN A LETTER TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATION OF RHODE ISLAND, GEORGE WASHINGTON WROTE "...THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES... GIVES TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE.... WHILE EVERYONE SHALL SIT IN SAFETY UNDER HIS OWN VINE AND FIGTREE, AND THERE SHALL BE NONE TO MAKE HIM AFRAID." AND HERE'S THE DIFFERENCE, THE VITAL DIFFERENCE THAT SETS APART OUR AMERICAN CREED. FOR US, FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS NO GIFT OF GOVERNMENT -- NO PRIVILEGE TO BE GRANTED OR WITHHELD -- IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT. //

LET'S TAKE HEART THAT THIS AMERICAN CREED IS SPREADING, THAT PEOPLE IN OUR TIME ARE DEMANDING AND GETTING THOSE RIGHTS THEY HAVE BEEN DENIED SO LONG. AND CHANGES IN OUR WORLD HAVE COME SO FAST THAT I SAY THEY ARE NOTHING SHORT OF BIBLICAL -- AND BY THAT I MEAN JUST PLAIN OLD-FASHIONED MIRACULOUS.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT. JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WE WOULD NO LONGER LIVE UNDER THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR CONFLAGRATION? WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE SCARRING SYMBOL OF AN ERA -- THE BERLIN WALL -- WOULD BE FOUND ONLY IN MUSEUMS AND CHIPPED INTO PAPERWEIGHTS? ABOVE ALL, WHO WOULD HAVE PREDICTED THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE FOUND ONLY IN THE PAGES OF HISTORY?

AND KNOW THIS: THE MIRACLES AREN'T ONLY CONFINED TO EUROPE. IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EVENTS HAVE DEFIED ALL THE PREDICTIONS. TODAY, DIRECT, BILATERAL TALKS ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HER NEIGHBORS.

YOU MAY RECALL WE WERE TOLD WE COULDN'T SUCCEED -- WE COULDN'T BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER. BUT WE DID.

I WANT TO DWELL FOR A MOMENT ON THIS BREAKTHROUGH, BECAUSE I KNOW IT MATTERS DEEPLY TO EVERYONE IN THIS HALL. LET ME TAKE YOU BACK NEARLY A YEAR AGO TO ANOTHER HALL, IN MADRID. THERE, GATHERED AROUND THE TABLE WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF LEBANON, JORDAN, SYRIA, EGYPT, PALESTINIANS -- AND ISRAEL. FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY THEY HAD NOT MET, ALL TOGETHER, OUTSIDE THE BATTLEFIELD. BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY CAME TOGETHER NOT TO FIGHT -- BUT TO TALK.

I'LL NEVER FORGET WALKING INTO THE MEETING ROOM -- THEN PRESIDENT GORBACHEV AT MY SIDE. YOU COULD CUT THE TENSION WITH A KNIFE, BUT WHEN GORBACHEV AND I SPOKE AFTERWARDS WE BOTH AGREED IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC MOMENTS IN RECENT HISTORY.

THEN, AS NOW, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST A CEASEFIRE OR A TRUCE, BUT PEACE, REAL PEACE. NOT SIMPLY THE END OF WAR -- BUT GENUINE RECONCILIATION. A PEACE BOTH BROAD AND DEEP, A PEACE CODIFIED BY TREATIES, AND GIVEN LIFE BY TRADE AND TOURISM, BY OPEN BORDERS -- THE FABRIC OF PEACE KNIT TOGETHER EVEN MORE TIGHTLY BY THE SIMPLE HUMAN CONTACT OF PEOPLES WHO'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FAR TOO LONG AS ENEMIES. A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. A PEACE THAT AT LONG LAST WILL ALLOW THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST TO TURN THEIR ENERGIES, THEIR RESOURCES, THEIR LIVES TO CREATION RATHER THAN DESTRUCTION -- TO GREAT WORKS RATHER THAN GREAT WARS.

TODAY, AS WE SPEAK, PARTIES THAT MET FIRST AT MADRID ARE MID-WAY THROUGH THE SIXTH ROUND OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS. DELEGATIONS ARE EXCHANGING NOT ONLY HANDSHAKES, BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME -- WRITTEN PROPOSALS. PUBLIC POSTURING HAS DECREASED -- AND MEANINGFUL PRIVATE DIALOGUE HAS INCREASED.

OF COURSE, MAJOR HURDLES REMAIN. IT WILL TAKE TIME AND EFFORT AND COURAGE AND TRUST. BUT THERE IS CLEARLY A WAY -- AND INCREASINGLY, A WILL.

THE EVIDENCE IS MOUNTING: THE MANY POSITIVE STEPS TAKEN BY ISRAEL'S NEW GOVERNMENT THAT IMPROVE DAY-TO-DAY LIFE FOR PALESTINIANS AND SIGNAL ITS SERIOUSNESS ABOUT PEACE -- EGYPT'S INVITATION THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR PRIME MINISTER RABIN TO MAKE HIS FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE ISRAEL TO AN ARAB COUNTRY -- SYRIA'S RELAXATION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING ITS JEWISH CITIZENS. FURTHER GESTURES, SUCH AS AN END TO THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL, CAN ONLY HELP IN BRINGING ABOUT AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE FOR NEGOTIATION AND RECONCILIATION. I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME TO SEE THAT BOYCOTT ENDED. //

I AM PROUD OF THE ROLE WE'VE PLAYED IN BREAKING THE LONG-STANDING TABOO AGAINST DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HER NEIGHBORS. ISRAEL SOUGHT DIRECT TALKS FOR 43 YEARS -- AND IT WAS RIGHT TO DO SO. IF YOU DO NOT TALK -- YOU CAN HAVE NO HOPE OF MAKING PEACE. NOW, THERE IS SUCH A HOPE.

I'M ALSO PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO END ISRAEL'S DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION INTERNATIONALLY. WE FINALLY SUCCEEDED -- AFTER 16 YEARS OF EFFORT -- IN GETTING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REPEAL WHAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ENACTED IN THE FIRST PLACE. ZIONISM IS NOT RACISM -- NOT BEFORE / NOT NOW / NOT EVER. //

AND THANKS IN LARGE PART TO OUR EFFORTS, CHINA AND INDIA AND TURKEY AND MANY OTHER NATIONS -- COUNTRIES REPRESENTING MORE THAN 2 BILLION PEOPLE -- NOW HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. ALREADY THIS HAS CREATED NOT ONLY GREATER CONTACT FOR ISRAEL WORLDWIDE, BUT NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

AND I KNOW THIS AUDIENCE KNOWS OF OUR EFFORTS TO OPEN THE GATES TO JEWS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND ALSO TO RESCUE ETHIOPIAN JEWS.

YOU KNOW, FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN I SPOKE TO YOU IN BALTIMORE, I NOTICED A BANNER HUNG ON THE WALL THAT READ: WHERE DO SOVIET JEWS APPLY FOR GLASNOST?

AS I PREPARED TO COME HERE TODAY, I THOUGHT OF THAT BANNER. I THOUGHT OF THE HOPES WE HAD THEN -- AND I THOUGHT OF A PLEDGE I MADE: THAT IN EVERY SINGLE MEETING WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS, I WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWS. //

MY FRIENDS, I COULD NOT FORGET THAT BANNER -- I DID NOT FORGET THAT PLEDGE -- AND TODAY, TOGETHER, WE CELEBRATE THIS MIRACLE: NEARLY HALF A MILLION JEWS HAVE COME OUT OF THE SOVIET UNION -- TO FREEDOM. TO AMERICA. TO ISRAEL. //

PERSUADING PARTIES TO SIT DOWN FACE-TO-FACE TO TALK
PEACE / ENDING ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION /
ASSISTING IN THE IN-GATHERING OF JEWS INTO ISRAEL:
THESE ARE THE THREE GREAT AIMS THAT HAVE GUIDED ISRAEL
FROM ITS FOUNDING. AND WE DIDN'T JUST TALK ABOUT
HELPING ISRAEL IN THESE AREAS -- WE DELIVERED. THAT'S
A FACT OF WHICH EVERY AMERICAN CAN BE PROUD.

AND HERE'S ANOTHER FACT. WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN,
WHEN MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ISRAEL, WERE THREATENED
BY THE MOST BRUTAL AGGRESSION, AMERICA WAS THERE. WE
STOPPED SADDAM HUSSEIN.

AND THAT TERRIBLE TIME WHEN THE WORLD FEARED THAT
THE COLD WAR WOULD BE REPLACED BY A NEW AGE OF SADDAM -
- THAT'S OVER, TOO.

I KNEW WHEN I TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE, THAT EVERY PRESIDENT FACES DIFFICULT DECISIONS -- AND THERE IS NO DECISION MORE DIFFICULT THAN SENDING THIS COUNTRY'S YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN INTO COMBAT. IN THE END, IT COMES DOWN TO THIS: YOU CANNOT MAKE THAT KIND OF DECISION - - UNLESS YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS AT STAKE.

I KNEW WHAT WAS AT STAKE.

AND BECAUSE OF THE BRAVERY OF AMERICA'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN DESERT STORM -- AMERICA TODAY IS SAFER.
ISRAEL TODAY IS SAFER. //

ASK YOURSELF WHERE THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE TODAY - - WHERE ISRAEL'S SECURITY WOULD BE TODAY -- IF WE HAD FOLLOWED THE COUNSEL OF MY CRITICS.

ASK YOURSELF WHERE WE WOULD BE IF WE HAD SOMEONE IN THE OVAL OFFICE WHO WOULD HAVE WAFFLED -- WHO WOULD HAVE WAVERED AND WANTED TO HAVE IT BOTH WAYS.

LISTEN TO MY OPPONENT'S VERY OWN WORDS ON WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MY LEAD, AND DRAWN A LINE IN THE SAND: -- AND I QUOTE -- "I GUESS I WOULD HAVE VOTED WITH THE MAJORITY IF IT WAS A CLOSE VOTE. BUT I AGREE WITH THE ARGUMENTS THE MINORITY MADE."

WHERE WOULD WE BE? I'LL TELL YOU: WE'D BE FACING A NUCLEAR-ARMED IRAQ, DOMINANT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH A CHOKE-HOLD ON THE WORLD'S OIL SUPPLIES. AN IRAQ THAT SHOWED THAT AGGRESSION AGAINST ONE'S NEIGHBORS CAN GO UNCHECKED. AN IRAQ THREATENING ISRAEL'S VERY EXISTENCE. ISRAEL'S VERY SURVIVAL WOULD BE AT STAKE - - AND WE'D BE TALKING ABOUT WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CHANCE TO AVOID NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WELL, DESERT STORM SWEEPED AWAY THAT NIGHTMARE AND BECAUSE OF AMERICA'S COURAGE TODAY, WE NOW HAVE THE CHANCE TO SEE THE DAWN OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE. THE MIDDLE EAST -
- INDEED, THE WORLD -- IS STILL A DANGEROUS PLACE.
TERRORISTS CONTINUE TO TARGET THE INNOCENT. THE
PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CASTS A
CLOUD OVER THE REGION'S FUTURE. IRAQ'S SADDAM HUSSEIN,
HOWEVER MUCH WEAKER, DEFEATED, AND LOCKED IN THE PRISON
OF HIS OWN COUNTRY -- STILL BRUTALIZES HIS OWN PEOPLE
AND RESISTS THE WILL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.
THE NEED FOR ISRAEL TO REMAIN STRONG IS BEYOND
QUESTION, AND IT CLEARLY INCLUDES HAVING A DEFENSIVE
CAPABILITY AGAINST MISSILE ATTACK. SCUD ATTACKS ON
ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE MADE THAT CLEAR TO EVERYONE. FOR
THAT REASON, I'VE PROPOSED TO ISRAEL THAT IT
PARTICIPATE IN OUR DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL PROTECTION
SYSTEM. //

AND LET ME SAY TO YOU: YOU OUGHT TO TAKE A GOOD, CLOSE LOOK AT ANYONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE A FRIEND OF ISRAEL -- AT ANYONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT ISRAEL'S SECURITY -- BUT OPPOSES DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEFENSES LIKE GPALS THAT MAY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY FOR ISRAEL TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST MISSILE ATTACK? //

THE POINT IS: THE NEED FOR US-ISRAELI STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER.

AND WE'RE ALSO GOING TO SEE THAT PARTNERSHIP AT WORK THIS WEEK. BECAUSE I AM HAPPY TO TELL YOU THAT I AM SENDING TO THE CONGRESS LEGISLATION REQUESTING UP TO \$10 BILLION IN LOAN GUARANTEES TO AID ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT IN WELCOMING ITS IMMIGRANTS. AND I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF EVERY ONE IN THIS ROOM TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS PROPOSAL BECOMES LAW. / AND DON'T LET ANY MEMBER OF CONGRESS TELL YOU WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DO THIS. WE CAN -- AND WE MUST. //

AND TODAY, I ASK YOU: TAKE THAT MESSAGE TO CAPITOL HILL.

I AM GLAD THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND I WERE ABLE TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON LOAN GUARANTEES WHEN WE MET IN KENNEBUNKPORT LAST MONTH. HE OUTLINED FOR ME THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S NEW PRIORITIES, COMMITTED TO INVESTING IN ISRAEL ITSELF, AND STOOD DETERMINED TO AVOID STEPS THAT COULD HAMPER PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. I SHARE THAT COMMITMENT. AND, AS A RESULT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROMOTE PEACE AND WELCOME NEW IMMIGRANTS AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME. BOTH ARE HUMANITARIAN UNDERTAKINGS; BOTH DESERVE OUR FULL SUPPORT. IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM, AND I AM GLAD THAT WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO PROMOTE BOTH OBJECTIVES.

AS FOR THE FUTURE, I AM CONFIDENT THAT ON MOST ISSUES, ON MOST OCCASIONS, WE AND ISRAEL WILL FIND OURSELVES IN AGREEMENT. I, FOR ONE, AM COMMITTED TO REVITALIZING THE TRADITION OF FULL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF ISSUES AFFECTING STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I KNOW PRIME MINISTER RABIN SHARES THIS COMMITMENT. AND LET ME EMPHASIZE THIS POINT: THERE WILL BE NO SURPRISES.

OUR SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND ITS SECURITY IS NOT SIMPLY A POLICY. IT IS A PRINCIPLE. AS I SAID AFTER PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND I MET IN MAINE, THIS IS A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON A SHARED COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND COMMON VALUES, AS WELL AS A SOLID COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY, INCLUDING ITS QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE. THIS IS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, ONE SPECIALLY BUILT TO ENDURE.

THIS RELATIONSHIP IS IMPORTANT -- ESPECIALLY NOW, AS WE ENTER A NEW ERA OF UNCERTAINTY. OLD EMPIRES ARE DYING AND NEW NATIONS BEING BORN. THIS IS A TIME WHEN A NATION NEEDS TO KNOW WHO IT CAN COUNT ON. ISRAEL HAS A STABILITY OF PURPOSE -- A STRENGTH OF SPIRIT THAT HAS SEEN IT THROUGH DARK DAYS. WE KNOW: ISRAEL WILL BE THERE FOR US. JUST AS WE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ISRAEL. //

NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN WE DISAGREE. EVEN FRIENDS DISAGREE. AMERICA WILL HAVE DISAGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL -- JUST AS WE SOMETIMES DISAGREE WITH CANADA AND FRANCE AND GERMANY AND BRITAIN. THOSE DIFFERENCES ARE SIGNS OF THE DURABILITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP -- OF THE DEMOCRATIC BONDS WE SHARE. THE POINT IS THIS: THESE ARE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN FRIENDS AND I EMPHASIZE THAT WORD, FRIENDS.

THERE MAY EVEN BE ISSUES WHERE YOU AND I WILL TAKE OPPOSING SIDES. AND THINGS MAY GET HOT AND WORDS MAY BE EXCHANGED. // IN THE PAST, SOME REMARKS OF MINE WERE MISINTERPRETED. I HAVE GONE ON THE RECORD EXPRESSING MY REGRET FOR ANY PAIN THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED. AGAIN I MAKE IT CLEAR, I SUPPORT, I ENDORSE, AND I DEEPLY BELIEVE IN THE GOD-GIVEN RIGHT OF EVERY AMERICAN TO PROMOTE WHAT THEY BELIEVE. IT IS YOUR RIGHT AS AN INDIVIDUAL. IT'S MORE THAN A RIGHT. IT'S YOUR DUTY AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.//

BUT LET ME ALSO SAY THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE LEARN HOW TO DISAGREE. THE WAY DEMOCRACIES ENGAGE IN DEBATE IS NOT WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE -- IT IS A MARK OF CIVILITY AND FREEDOM. I HARDLY NEED TO TELL ANYONE IN THIS ROOM JUST WHAT ANTI-SEMITISM IS. AS MY FRIEND ABE FOXMAN OF THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE HAS POINTED OUT, TO ACCUSE THOSE WHO MAY COME TO DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS ON ONE OR ANOTHER PUBLIC ISSUE OF HARBORING ANTI-SEMITISM IS TO CHEAPEN THE TERM. THAT IS DANGEROUS. THAT IS DEEPLY WRONG. AND WHEN THOSE WORDS, WITHOUT JUSTICE, HAVE BEEN AIMED AT ME -- I CAN TELL YOU: THEY CUT TO THE HEART. //

BUT LET'S PUT ALL OF THIS ASIDE NOW AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE. I'VE TALKED TO YOU HERE ABOUT MY OPTIMISM FOR THAT FUTURE. WE COME TOGETHER AT A BLESSED TIME. THE COLD WAR IS OVER. AND ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE TALKS HAVE BEGUN.

THERE IS ANOTHER REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL SOON EXERCISE THEIR UNBROKEN TWO HUNDRED YEAR DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO ELECT A PRESIDENT. AND I'M OPTIMISTIC TOO ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THAT NEW PRESIDENT -- THERE I GO AGAIN SOUNDING LIKE HARRY TRUMAN. / BUT, LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH THIS. HOWEVER IT TURNS OUT, COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, TO TOLERANCE AND OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA AND AROUND THE WORLD WILL NOT CHANGE.

YOU ARE MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY THAT HAS A LONG AND GREAT TRADITION OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. B'NAI B'RITH STANDS FOR OPPORTUNITY, FOR TOLERANCE, FOR OPPOSITION TO ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE UGLY FACE OF HATE IN ALL ITS FORMS. YOU STAND TOO FOR STALWART SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S CLOSE FRIEND AND ALLY, ISRAEL.

AND, LET ME SIMPLY SAY THAT ON ALL THESE ISSUES, I
AM PROUD TO STAND WITH YOU. //

THANK YOU. MAY GOD BLESS THE STATE OF ISRAEL --
AND MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 7, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: STEVE PROVOST

FROM: DAN MC GROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

I. Summary

On Tuesday, September 8, at 11:25 a.m., you will deliver remarks to approximately 1500 people gathered at the Sheraton Washington Hotel for the B'Nai B'rith 150th International Convention.

II. Discussion

Your remarks (22 minutes, on prompter) address the U.S. role in the Middle East -- in fostering a strong U.S. tie with the new Israeli government and supporting recent groundbreaking peace talks. In addition, you pledge your commitment to fight against anti-semitism, hate crimes and intolerance, both here and abroad.

McGroarty/Nix
September 7, 1992
2:00 p.m.
Draft 4

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 8, 1992
11:00 A.M.

It is a great honor to be here with you today.

[Acknowledgements. And let me express my concerns for my good friend Max Fisher, who was to be with us today....]

We've witnessed a world of change. Across Europe, across continents, from Panama City to Prague, millions of men and women now celebrate a new birth of freedom -- a new world of hope.

With change comes new challenges. For America, the end of the Cold War means the beginning of a new era -- a new era of economic competition that America simply must and will win. We must recognize the new reality about domestic, economic and foreign policies. In our world today, these three topics have become one issue. In order to prevail, the United States must be not only a military superpower, but an economic superpower -- an export superpower as well. //

Yet you and I both know that America is about more than the GNP. Our strength as a people is not measured merely by per capita income. The state of our American union reflects not simply the productivity of our economy but the character of our society: How well we care for one another, in the wake of natural tragedies like Hurricane Andrew -- in the face of all-too-human tragedies of hate and unreason and violence. This is

what defines us. This is the true measure of what America means, to ourselves -- to the world.

This willingness to reach out, to help those in need -- to recognize across all the divides of color and culture and creed our shared human spirit -- this is what B'Nai B'rith is all about. For 150 years, the members of this organization have served as the nation's conscience. And part of America's conscience must always be to fight anti-semitism and other forms of prejudice wherever and whenever they appear.

I wish that I could stand before you today and say that anti-semitism is history, but it is not. Not when there are hate crimes here at home and brown shirts abroad. That's a sorry commentary on human nature.

Let's all be clear: A world willing to allow Jews to be persecuted is a world certain to allow other tyrannies to emerge. Neither Jew nor Gentile is safe so long as anti-semitism festers.

But we're not helpless. And we're doing something about it.

// In this country, we are aggressively employing the Hate Crimes Act to bring to justice those who traffic in the gutter.

/ Anti-semitism is an evil idea with an ugly history. / I give you this pledge: I will continue to do my utmost, here and abroad, so that prejudice is finally / finally / finally, banished from the human heart. //

In the end, anti-semitism and prejudice mock and threaten the basic principles upon which the United States is founded. They mock our belief in individual rights and in the human being,

created as the Bible tells us, in the image of God. And because of that powerful belief in basic humanity, nothing is more sacred to Americans than the principle of religious liberty.

In the words of George Washington to the Hebrew congregation of Rhode Island, "...the government of the United States... gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.... While everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid." And here's the difference, the vital difference that sets apart our American creed. For us, freedom of religion is no gift of government -- no privilege to be granted or withheld -- it is a fundamental human right. //

Let's take heart that this American creed is spreading, that people in our time are demanding and getting those rights they have been denied so long. And changes in our world have come so fast that I say they are nothing short of Biblical -- and by that I mean just plain old-fashioned miraculous.

Just think about it. Just a few years ago, who would have thought we would no longer live under the threat of nuclear conflagration? Who would have thought the scarring symbol of an era -- the Berlin Wall -- would be found only in museums and chipped into paperweights? Above all, who would have predicted the Soviet Union would be found only in the pages of history?

And know this: the miracles aren't only confined to Europe. In the Middle East, events have defied all the predictions.

Today, direct, bilateral talks are taking place between Israel and her neighbors.

You may recall we were told we couldn't succeed -- we couldn't bring the parties together. But we did.

I want to dwell for a moment on this breakthrough, because I know it matters deeply to everyone in this hall. Let me take you back nearly a year ago to another hall, in Madrid. There, gathered around the table were representatives of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Palestinians -- and Israel. For nearly half a century they had not met, all together, outside the battlefield. But for the first time they came together not to fight -- but to talk.

Then, as now, the goal is not just a ceasefire or a truce, but peace, real peace. Not simply the end of war -- but genuine reconciliation. A peace both broad and deep, a peace codified by treaties, and given life by trade and tourism, by open borders - - the fabric of peace knit together even more tightly by the simple human contact of peoples who've known each other far too long as enemies. A comprehensive peace, rooted in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. A peace that at long last will allow the peoples of the Middle East to turn their energies, their resources, their lives to creation rather than destruction -- to great works rather than great wars.

Today, as we speak, parties that met first at Madrid are mid-way through the sixth round of bilateral negotiations. There has been progress. Delegations are exchanging not only

handshakes, but for the first time -- written proposals. Public posturing has decreased -- and meaningful private dialogue has increased.

Of course, major hurdles remain. It will take time and effort and courage and trust. But there is clearly a way -- and increasingly, a will.

The evidence is mounting: The many positive steps taken by Israel's new government that improve day-to-day life for Palestinians and signal its seriousness about peace -- Egypt's invitation that made it possible for Prime Minister Rabin to make his first trip outside Israel to an Arab country -- Syria's relaxation of travel restrictions affecting its Jewish citizens. Further gestures, such as an end to the Arab boycott of Israel, can only help in bringing about an environment conducive for negotiation and reconciliation. I think it's high time to see that boycott ended. //

I am proud of the role we've played in breaking the long-standing taboo against direct talks between Israel and her neighbors. Israel sought direct talks for 43 years -- and it was right to do so. If you do not talk -- you can have no hope of making peace. Now, there is such a hope.

I'm also proud of what we have done to end Israel's diplomatic isolation internationally. Thanks to our efforts, we succeeded -- after 16 years -- in getting the UN General Assembly to repeal what should never have been enacted in the first place.

Zionism is not racism -- not before / not now / not ever. //

And thanks to our efforts, China and India and Turkey and many other nations -- countries representing more than 2 billion people -- now have full diplomatic relations with Israel. Already this has created not only greater contact for Israel worldwide, but new economic opportunities.

And I know this audience knows of our efforts to open the gates to Jews in the former Soviet Union and also to rescue Ethiopian Jews.

You know, four years ago when I spoke to you in Baltimore, I noticed a banner hung in the back of the room that read: Where do Soviet Jews apply for glasnost?

As I prepared to come here today, I thought of that banner. I thought of the hopes we had then -- and I thought of the pledge I made: That in every single meeting with Soviet officials, I would raise the issue of Soviet Jews. //

My friends, I could not forget that banner -- I did not forget that pledge -- and today, together, we celebrate this miracle: Nearly half a million Jews have come out of the Soviet Union -- to freedom. To Israel. //

Persuading parties to talk peace / ending Israel's international isolation / assisting in the in-gathering of Jews into Israel: These are the three great aims that have guided Israel from its founding. And we didn't just talk about helping Israel in these areas -- we delivered. That's a fact of which every American can be proud.

And here's another fact. When the chips were down, when many countries, including Israel, were threatened by the most brutal aggression, America was there. We stopped Saddam Hussein.

And that terrible time when the world feared that the Cold War would be replaced by a new age of Saddam -- that's over, too. Let's recall some simple facts -- facts that some would-be revisionists rewriting history would like to hide or distort.

Saddam Hussein's rise to power and aggression were not caused by the United States. // We were not the reason Saddam Hussein was on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons. We were not the reason Saddam Hussein had more than 5000 tanks -- or 3500 pieces of artillery -- or the 4th largest army in the world.

And whatever differences I had with my critics cannot obscure this fact: After August 2, while some stood by and second-guessed -- I acted to take care of that threat. //

I knew when I took the oath of office, that every President faces difficult decisions -- and there is no decision more difficult than sending this country's young men and women in harm's way. In the end, it comes down to this: You cannot make that kind of decision -- unless you are certain you understand what is at stake.

I knew what was at stake.

And because of the bravery of America's sons and daughters in Desert Storm -- America today is safer. Israel today is safer. //

Ask yourself where the Middle East would be today -- where Israel's security would be today -- if we had followed the counsel of my critics.

Ask yourself where we would be if we had someone in the Oval Office who would have waffled -- who would have wavered and wanted to have it both ways.

Where would we be? I'll tell you: We'd be facing a nuclear-armed Iraq, dominant in the Middle East, with a chokehold on the world's oil supplies -- and threatening Israel's very existence. Israel's very survival would be at stake -- and we'd be talking about whether there was any chance to avoid nuclear Armageddon in the Middle East.

Well, Desert Storm swept away that nightmare and because of America's courage today, we now have the chance to see the dawn of peace in the Middle East.

There is still work to be done. The Middle East -- indeed, the world -- is still a dangerous place. Terrorists continue to target the innocent. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction casts a cloud over the region's future. Iraq's Saddam Hussein, however much weaker, defeated, and locked in the prison of his own country -- still brutalizes his own people and resists the will of the international community. The need for Israel to remain strong is beyond question, and it clearly includes having a defensive capability against missile attack. Scud attacks on Israel should have made that clear to everyone.

For that reason, I've proposed to Israel that it participate in our development of a global protection system. //

And let me say to you: You ought to take a good, close look at anyone who claims to be a friend of Israel -- at anyone who claims to be serious about Israel's security -- but opposes development of the defenses like GPALS that may be the only effective way for Israel to defend itself against missile attack? //

The point is: The need for US-Israeli strategic partnership and cooperation remains as strong as ever.

And we're also going to see that partnership at work this week. Because I am happy to tell you that I am sending to the Congress legislation requesting up to \$10 billion in loan guarantees to aid Israel's government in welcoming its immigrants. And I know I can count on the support of every one in this room to make sure that this proposal becomes law. / And don't let any Member of Congress tell you we can't afford to do this. We can -- and we must. //

And today, I ask you: Take that message to Capitol Hill.

And believe me, I know that you will. //

I am glad that Prime Minister Rabin and I were able to reach an understanding on loan guarantees when we met in Kennebunkport last month. He outlined for me the new Israeli government's new priorities, committed to investing in Israel itself, and stood determined to avoid steps that could hamper progress toward peace. I share that commitment. And, as a result, we will be

able to promote peace and welcome new immigrants at one and the same time. Both are humanitarian undertakings; both deserve our full support. It was important not to choose between them, and I am glad that we are now in a position to promote both objectives.

As for the future, I am confident that on most issues, on most occasions, we and Israel will find ourselves in agreement. I, for one, am committed to revitalizing the tradition of full consultations between the United States and Israel on the entire range of issues affecting stability in the Middle East. I know Prime Minister Rabin shares this commitment. And let me emphasize this point: There will be no surprises.

Our support for Israel and its security is not simply a policy. It is a principle. As I said after Prime Minister Rabin and I met in Maine, this is a relationship based on a shared commitment to democracy and common values, as well as a solid commitment to Israel's security, including its qualitative military edge. This is a special relationship, one specially built to endure.

This relationship is important -- especially now, as we enter a new era of uncertainty. Old empires are dying and new nations being born. This is a time when a nation needs to know who it can count on. Israel has a stability of purpose -- a strength of spirit that has seen it through dark days. We know: Israel will be there for us. Just as we will always be there for Israel. //

No doubt there will be times when we disagree. Even friends disagree. America will have disagreements with Israel -- just as we sometimes disagree with Canada and France and Germany and Britain. Those differences are signs of the durability of our relationship -- of the democratic bonds we share. The point is this: These are disagreements between friends and I emphasize that word, friends.

There may even be issues where you and I will take opposing sides. And things may get hot and words, hurtful words, may be exchanged. // In the past, some remarks of mine -- remarks made at a press conference -- were misinterpreted. I have gone on the record expressing my sorrow for any pain this may have caused -- but I know some have said that wasn't a sufficient response to the hurt that was created. So I'll go on the record again -- right here and now -- in front of these cameras, to all the American people.

I support, I endorse, and I deeply believe in the God-given right of every American to promote what they believe. It is your right as an individual. It's more than a right. It's your duty as an American citizen. //

But let me also say that it is important that we learn how to disagree. The way democracies engage in debate is not without consequence -- it is a mark of civility and freedom. I hardly need to tell anyone in this room just what anti-semitism is. As my friend Abe Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League has pointed out, to accuse those who may come to different conclusions on one

or another public issue of harboring anti-semitism is to cheapen the term. That is dangerous. That is deeply wrong. And when those words, without justice, have been aimed at me -- I can tell you: They cut to the heart. //

But let's put all of this aside now and look to the future. I've talked to you here about my optimism for that future. We come together at a blessed time. The Cold War is over. And Arab-Israeli peace talks have begun.

There is another reason to be optimistic. The American people will soon exercise their unbroken two hundred year democratic right to elect a President. And I'm optimistic too about the identity of that new President -- there I go again sounding like Harry Truman. / But, let me leave you with this. However it turns out, commitment to freedom and democracy, to tolerance and opportunity in America and around the world will not change.

You are members of a community that has a long and great tradition of political participation. B'nai B'rith stands for opportunity, for tolerance, for opposition to anti-semitism and the ugly face of hate in all its forms. You stand too for stalwart support for America's close friend and ally, Israel.

And, let me simply say that on all these issues, I am proud to stand with you. //

Thank you. May God bless the state of Israel -- and may God bless the United States of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 7, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: STEVE PROVOST

FROM: DAN MC GROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

I. Summary

On Tuesday, September 8, at 11:25 a.m., you will deliver remarks to approximately 1500 people gathered at the Sheraton Washington Hotel for the B'Nai B'rith 150th International Convention.

II. Discussion

Your remarks (22 minutes, on prompter) address the U.S. role in the Middle East -- in fostering a strong U.S. tie with the new Israeli government and supporting recent groundbreaking peace talks. In addition, you pledge your commitment to fight against anti-semitism, hate crimes and intolerance, both here and abroad.

Mr, President

We recognize this needs to be shortened.

Steve Provost

McGroarty/Nix
September 7, 1992
2:00 p.m.
Draft 4

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 8, 1992
11:00 A.M.

It is a great honor to be here with you today.

[Acknowledgements. And let me express my concerns for my good friend Max Fisher, who was to be with us today....] *I talked to him on the phone at the hospital; but his enthusiasm is still fantastic.*
We've witnessed a world of change. Across Europe, across continents, from Panama City to Prague, millions of men and women now celebrate a new birth of freedom -- a new world of hope.

With change comes new challenges. For America, the end of the Cold War means the beginning of a new era -- a new era of economic competition that America simply must and will win. We must recognize the new reality about domestic, economic and foreign policies. In our world today, these three topics have become one issue. In order to prevail, the United States must be not only a military superpower, but an economic superpower -- an export superpower as well. //

Yet you and I both know that America is about more than the GNP. Our strength as a people is not measured merely by per capita income. The state of our American union reflects not simply the productivity of our economy but the character of our society: How well we care for one another, in the wake of natural tragedies like Hurricane Andrew -- in the face of all-too-human tragedies of hate and unreason and violence. This is

what defines us. This is the true measure of what America means, to ourselves -- to the world.

This willingness to reach out, to help those in need -- to recognize across all the divides of color and culture and creed our shared human spirit -- this is what B'Nai B'rith is all about. For 150 years, the members of this organization have ^{joined a handful of other organizations serving as} served as the nation's conscience. And part of America's conscience must always be to fight anti-semitism and other forms of prejudice wherever and whenever they appear.

maybe
↓
try
will

Handwritten signature

I wish that I could stand before you today and say that anti-semitism is history, but it is not. Not when there are hate crimes here at home and brown shirts abroad. That's a sorry commentary on human nature.

Let's all be clear: A world willing to allow Jews to be persecuted is a world certain to allow other tyrannies to emerge. Neither Jew nor Gentile is safe so long as anti-semitism festers.

But we're not helpless. And we're doing something about it.

// In this country, we are aggressively employing the Hate Crimes Act to bring to justice those who traffic in the gutter.

/ Anti-semitism is an evil idea with an ugly history. / ~~I give~~ you ~~this~~ pledge: I will continue to do my utmost, here and abroad, so that prejudice is finally / finally / finally, banished from the human heart. //

Don't like pledges

In the end, anti-semitism and prejudice mock and threaten the basic principles upon which the United States is founded. They mock our belief in individual rights and in the human being,

leave out

created as the Bible tells us, in the image of God. And because of that powerful belief in basic humanity, nothing is more sacred to Americans than the principle of religious liberty.

In the words of George Washington to the Hebrew congregation of Rhode Island, "...the government of the United States... gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.... W everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree there shall be none to make him afraid." And here's the difference, the vital difference that sets apart our American creed. For us, freedom of religion is no gift of government no privilege to be granted or withheld -- it is a fundamental human right. //

Genesis
1:27

Let's take heart that this American creed is spreading, that people in our time are demanding and getting those rights they have been denied so long. And changes in our world have come so fast that I say they are nothing short of Biblical -- and by that I mean just plain old-fashioned miraculous.

W

Just think about it. Just a few years ago, who would have thought we would no longer live under the threat of nuclear conflagration? Who would have thought the scarring symbol of an era -- the Berlin Wall -- would be found only in museums and chipped into paperweights? Above all, who would have predicted the Soviet Union would be found only in the pages of history?

And know this: the miracles aren't only confined to Europe. In the Middle East, events have defied all the predictions.

Today, direct, bilateral talks are taking place between Israel and her neighbors.

You may recall we were told we couldn't succeed -- we couldn't bring the parties together. But we did.

I want to dwell for a moment on this breakthrough, because I know it matters deeply to everyone in this hall. Let me take you back nearly a year ago to another hall, in Madrid. There, gathered around the table were representatives of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Palestinians -- and Israel. For nearly half a century they had not met, all together, outside the battlefield. But for the first time they came together not to fight -- but to talk.

Then, as now, the goal is not just a ceasefire or a truce, but peace, real peace. Not simply the end of war -- but genuine reconciliation. A peace both broad and deep, a peace codified by treaties, and given life by trade and tourism, by open borders -- the fabric of peace knit together even more tightly by the simple human contact of peoples who've known each other far too long as enemies. A comprehensive peace, rooted in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. A peace that at long last will allow the peoples of the Middle East to turn their energies, their resources, their lives to creation rather than destruction -- to great works rather than great wars.

Today, as we speak, parties that met first at Madrid are mid-way through the sixth round of bilateral negotiations. There has been progress. Delegations are exchanging not only

handshakes, but for the first time -- written proposals. Public posturing has decreased -- and meaningful private dialogue has increased.

Of course, major hurdles remain. It will take time and effort and courage and trust. But there is clearly a way -- and increasingly, a will.

The evidence is mounting: The many positive steps taken by Israel's new government that improve day-to-day life for Palestinians and signal its seriousness about peace -- Egypt's invitation that made it possible for Prime Minister Rabin to make his first trip outside Israel to an Arab country -- Syria's relaxation of travel restrictions affecting its Jewish citizens. Further gestures, such as an end to the Arab boycott of Israel, can only help in bringing about an environment conducive for negotiation and reconciliation. I think it's high time to see that boycott ended. //

I am proud of the role we've played in breaking the long-standing taboo against direct talks between Israel and her neighbors. Israel sought direct talks for 43 years -- and it was right to do so. If you do not talk -- you can have no hope of making peace. Now, there is such a hope.

I'm also proud of what we have done to end Israel's diplomatic isolation internationally. Thanks to our efforts, we succeeded -- after 16 years -- in getting the UN General Assembly to repeal what should never have been enacted in the first place.

Zionism is not racism -- not before / not now / not ever. //

in part
And thanks [^] to our efforts, China and India and Turkey and many other nations -- countries representing more than 2 billion people -- now have full diplomatic relations with Israel. Already this has created not only greater contact for Israel worldwide, but new economic opportunities.

And I know this audience knows of our efforts to open the gates to Jews in the former Soviet Union and also to rescue Ethiopian Jews.

You know, four years ago when I spoke to you in Baltimore, I noticed a banner hung in the back of the room that read: Where do Soviet Jews apply for glasnost?

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And here's another fact. When the chips were down, when many countries, including Israel, were threatened by the most brutal aggression, America was there. We stopped Saddam Hussein.

And that terrible time when the world feared that the Cold War would be replaced by a new age of Saddam -- that's over, too. Let's recall some simple facts -- facts that some would-be revisionists rewriting history would like to hide or distort.

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And whatever differences I had with my critics cannot obscure this fact: After August 2, while some stood by and second-guessed -- I acted to take care of that threat. //

I knew when I took the oath of office, that every President faces difficult decisions -- and there is no decision more difficult than sending this country's young men and women in harm's way. In the end, it comes down to this: You cannot make that kind of decision -- unless you are certain you understand what is at stake.

I knew what was at stake.

And because of the bravery of America's sons and daughters in Desert Storm -- America today is safer. Israel today is safer. //

*Sounds
defensive*

Ask yourself where the Middle East would be today -- where Israel's security would be today -- if we had followed the counsel of my critics.

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There may even be issues where you and I will take opposing sides. And things may get hot and words, hurtful words, may be exchanged. // In the past, some remarks of mine -- remarks made at a press conference -- were misinterpreted. I have gone on the record expressing my sorrow for any pain this may have caused -- but I know some have said that wasn't a sufficient response to the hurt that was created. So I'll go on the record again -- right here and now -- in front of these cameras, to all the American people.

Do we need another mea culpa

I support, I endorse, and I deeply believe in the God-given right of every American to promote what they believe. It is your right as an individual. It's more than a right. It's your duty as an American citizen. //

But let me also say that it is important that we learn how to disagree. The way democracies engage in debate is not without consequence -- it is a mark of civility and freedom. I hardly need to tell anyone in this room just what anti-semitism is. As my friend Abe Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League has pointed out, to accuse those who may come to different conclusions on one

or another public issue of harboring anti-semitism is to cheapen the term. That is dangerous. That is deeply wrong. And when those words, without justice, have been aimed at me -- I can tell you: They cut to the heart. //

But let's put all of this aside now and look to the future. I've talked to you here about my optimism for that future. We come together at a blessed time. The Cold War is over. And Arab-Israeli peace talks have begun.

There is another reason to be optimistic. The American people will soon exercise their unbroken two hundred year democratic right to elect a President. And I'm optimistic too about the identity of that new President -- there I go again sounding like Harry Truman. / But, let me leave you with this. However it turns out, commitment to freedom and democracy, to tolerance and opportunity in America and around the world will not change.

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And, let me simply say that on all these issues, I am proud to stand with you. //

Thank you. May God bless the state of Israel -- and may God bless the United States of America.

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Politik musy sewa permissible.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/8/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, DC

SUBJECT: _____
SEPTEMBER 8, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ZOELLICK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

(NOTE: POTUS reviewed draft 4 aboard aircraft
9/7/92)

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

McGroarty/Nix
September 7, 1992
11:00 p.m.
Draft 5

12 SEP 8 A7:46

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 8, 1992
11:00 A.M.

It is a great honor to be here with you today.

[Acknowledgements. And let me express my concerns for my good friend Max Fisher, who was to be with us today....]

We've witnessed a world of change, and with change comes new challenges. For America, the end of the Cold War means the beginning of a new era -- a new era of economic competition that America simply must and will win. In the new world, foreign policy, economic policy and domestic policy have become one issue. In order to prevail, the United States must be not only a military superpower, but an economic superpower -- an export superpower as well. //

Yet we know that America is measured by more than the strength of our economy, but also by the content of our character -- how we serve others.

This willingness to reach out, to help those in need -- to recognize across all the divides of color and culture and creed our shared human spirit -- this is what B'Nai B'rith is all about. For 150 years, the members of this organization, have joined a handful of other organizations serving as the nation's conscience. And part of America's conscience must always be to

fight anti-semitism and other forms of prejudice wherever and whenever they appear.

I wish that I could stand before you today and say that anti-semitism is history, but it is not. Not when there are hate crimes here at home and brown shirts abroad. That's a sorry commentary on human nature.

Let's all be clear: A world willing to allow Jews to be persecuted is a world certain to allow other tyrannies to emerge.

But we're not helpless. And we're doing something about it.

// In this country, we are aggressively employing the Hate Crimes Act to bring to justice those who traffic in the gutter.
/ Anti-semitism is an evil idea with an ugly history. / I will continue to do my utmost, here and abroad, so that prejudice is finally / finally / finally, banished from the human heart. //

In the end, anti-semitism and prejudice mock and threaten the basic principles upon which the United States is founded.

In a letter to the Hebrew congregation of Rhode Island, George Washington wrote "...the government of the United States... gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.... While everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid." And here's the difference, the vital difference that sets apart our American creed. For us, freedom of religion is no gift of government -- no privilege to be granted or withheld -- it is a fundamental human right. //

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Just think about it. Just a few years ago, who would have thought we would no longer live under the threat of nuclear conflagration? Who would have thought the scarring symbol of an era -- the Berlin Wall -- would be found only in museums and chipped into paperweights? Above all, who would have predicted the Soviet Union would be found only in the pages of history?

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You may recall we were told we couldn't succeed -- we couldn't bring the parties together. But we did.

I want to dwell for a moment on this breakthrough, because I know it matters deeply to everyone in this hall. Let me take you back nearly a year ago to another hall, in Madrid. There, gathered around the table were representatives of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Palestinians -- and Israel. For nearly half a century they had not met, all together, outside the battlefield. But for the first time they came together not to fight -- but to talk.

Then, as now, the goal is not just a ceasefire or a truce, but peace, real peace. Not simply the end of war -- but genuine reconciliation. A peace both broad and deep, a peace codified by treaties, and given life by trade and tourism, by open borders - - the fabric of peace knit together even more tightly by the simple human contact of peoples who've known each other far too long as enemies. A comprehensive peace, rooted in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. A peace that at long last will allow the peoples of the Middle East to turn their energies, their resources, their lives to creation rather than destruction -- to great works rather than great wars.

Today, as we speak, parties that met first at Madrid are mid-way through the sixth round of bilateral negotiations. There has been progress. Delegations are exchanging not only handshakes, but for the first time -- written proposals. Public posturing has decreased -- and meaningful private dialogue has increased.

Of course, major hurdles remain. It will take time and effort and courage and trust. But there is clearly a way -- and increasingly, a will.

The evidence is mounting: The many positive steps taken by Israel's new government that improve day-to-day life for Palestinians and signal its seriousness about peace -- Egypt's invitation that made it possible for Prime Minister Rabin to make his first trip outside Israel to an Arab country -- Syria's relaxation of travel restrictions affecting its Jewish citizens.

Further gestures, such as an end to the Arab boycott of Israel, can only help in bringing about an environment conducive for negotiation and reconciliation. I think it's high time to see that boycott ended. //

I am proud of the role we've played in breaking the long-standing taboo against direct talks between Israel and her neighbors. Israel sought direct talks for 43 years -- and it was right to do so. If you do not talk -- you can have no hope of making peace. Now, there is such a hope.

I'm also proud of what we have done to end Israel's diplomatic isolation internationally. Thanks to our efforts, we succeeded -- after 16 years -- in getting the UN General Assembly to repeal what should never have been enacted in the first place.

Zionism is not racism -- not before / not now / not ever. //

And thanks to our efforts, China and India and Turkey and many other nations -- countries representing more than 2 billion people -- now have full diplomatic relations with Israel. Already this has created not only greater contact for Israel worldwide, but new economic opportunities.

And I know this audience knows of our efforts to open the gates to Jews in the former Soviet Union and also to rescue Ethiopian Jews.

You know, four years ago when I spoke to you in Baltimore, I noticed a banner hung on the wall that read: Where do Soviet Jews apply for glasnost?

As I prepared to come here today, I thought of that banner. I thought of the hopes we had then -- and I thought of a pledge I made: That in every single meeting with Soviet officials, I would raise the issue of Soviet Jews. //

My friends, I could not forget that banner -- I did not forget that pledge -- and today, together, we celebrate this miracle: Nearly half a million Jews have come out of the Soviet Union -- to freedom. To America. To Israel. //

Persuading parties to talk peace / ending Israel's international isolation / assisting in the in-gathering of Jews into Israel: These are the three great aims that have guided Israel from its founding. And we didn't just talk about helping Israel in these areas -- we delivered. That's a fact of which every American can be proud.

And here's another fact. When the chips were down, when many countries, including Israel, were threatened by the most brutal aggression, America was there. We stopped Saddam Hussein.

And that terrible time when the world feared that the Cold War would be replaced by a new age of Saddam -- that's over, too.

I knew when I took the oath of office, that every President faces difficult decisions -- and there is no decision more difficult than sending this country's young men and women in harm's way. In the end, it comes down to this: You cannot make that kind of decision -- unless you are certain you understand what is at stake.

I knew what was at stake.

And because of the bravery of America's sons and daughters in Desert Storm -- America today is safer. Israel today is safer. //

Ask yourself where the Middle East would be today -- where Israel's security would be today -- if we had followed the counsel of my critics.

Ask yourself where we would be if we had someone in the Oval Office who would have waffled -- who would have wavered and wanted to have it both ways.

Where would we be? I'll tell you: We'd be facing a nuclear-armed Iraq, dominant in the Middle East, with a chokehold on the world's oil supplies -- and threatening Israel's very existence. Israel's very survival would be at stake -- and we'd be talking about whether there was any chance to avoid nuclear Armageddon in the Middle East.

Well, Desert Storm swept away that nightmare and because of America's courage today, we now have the chance to see the dawn of peace in the Middle East.

There is still work to be done. The Middle East -- indeed, the world -- is still a dangerous place. Terrorists continue to target the innocent. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction casts a cloud over the region's future. Iraq's Saddam Hussein, however much weaker, defeated, and locked in the prison of his own country -- still brutalizes his own people and resists the will of the international community. The need for Israel to remain strong is beyond question, and it clearly

includes having a defensive capability against missile attack. Scud attacks on Israel should have made that clear to everyone. For that reason, I've proposed to Israel that it participate in our development of a global protection system. //

And let me say to you: You ought to take a good, close look at anyone who claims to be a friend of Israel -- at anyone who claims to be serious about Israel's security -- but opposes development of the defenses like GPALS that may be the only effective way for Israel to defend itself against missile attack?
//

The point is: The need for US-Israeli strategic partnership and cooperation remains as strong as ever.

And we're also going to see that partnership at work this week. Because I am happy to tell you that I am sending to the Congress legislation requesting up to \$10 billion in loan guarantees to aid Israel's government in welcoming its immigrants. And I know I can count on the support of every one in this room to make sure that this proposal becomes law. / And don't let any Member of Congress tell you we can't afford to do this. We can -- and we must. //

And today, I ask you: Take that message to Capitol Hill.

And believe me, I know that you will. //

I am glad that Prime Minister Rabin and I were able to reach an understanding on loan guarantees when we met in Kennebunkport last month. He outlined for me the new Israeli government's new priorities, committed to investing in Israel itself, and stood

determined to avoid steps that could hamper progress toward peace. I share that commitment. And, as a result, we will be able to promote peace and welcome new immigrants at one and the same time. Both are humanitarian undertakings; both deserve our full support. It was important not to choose between them, and I am glad that we are now in a position to promote both objectives.

As for the future, I am confident that on most issues, on most occasions, we and Israel will find ourselves in agreement. I, for one, am committed to revitalizing the tradition of full consultations between the United States and Israel on the entire range of issues affecting stability in the Middle East. I know Prime Minister Rabin shares this commitment. And let me emphasize this point: There will be no surprises.

Our support for Israel and its security is not simply a policy. It is a principle. As I said after Prime Minister Rabin and I met in Maine, this is a relationship based on a shared commitment to democracy and common values, as well as a solid commitment to Israel's security, including its qualitative military edge. This is a special relationship, one specially built to endure.

This relationship is important -- especially now, as we enter a new era of uncertainty. Old empires are dying and new nations being born. This is a time when a nation needs to know who it can count on. Israel has a stability of purpose -- a strength of spirit that has seen it through dark days. We know:

Israel will be there for us. Just as we will always be there for Israel. //

No doubt there will be times when we disagree. Even friends disagree. America will have disagreements with Israel -- just as we sometimes disagree with Canada and France and Germany and Britain. Those differences are signs of the durability of our relationship -- of the democratic bonds we share. The point is this: These are disagreements between friends and I emphasize that word, friends.

(There may even be issues where you and I will take opposing sides. And things may get hot and words, hurtful words, may be exchanged. // In the past, some remarks of mine -- remarks made at a press conference -- were misinterpreted. I have gone on the record expressing my regret for any pain this may have caused. Again I make it clear, I support, I endorse, and I deeply believe in the God-given right of every American to promote what they believe. It is your right as an individual. It's more than a right. It's your duty as an American citizen.) //

But let me also say that it is important that we learn how to disagree. The way democracies engage in debate is not without consequence -- it is a mark of civility and freedom. I hardly need to tell anyone in this room just what anti-semitism is. As my friend Abe Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League has pointed out, to accuse those who may come to different conclusions on one or another public issue of harboring anti-semitism is to cheapen the term. That is dangerous. That is deeply wrong. And when

those words, without justice, have been aimed at me -- I can tell you: They cut to the heart. //

But let's put all of this aside now and look to the future. I've talked to you here about my optimism for that future. We come together at a blessed time. The Cold War is over. And Arab-Israeli peace talks have begun.

There is another reason to be optimistic. The American people will soon exercise their unbroken two hundred year democratic right to elect a President. And I'm optimistic too about the identity of that new President -- there I go again sounding like Harry Truman. / But, let me leave you with this. However it turns out, commitment to freedom and democracy, to tolerance and opportunity in America and around the world will not change.

You are members of a community that has a long and great tradition of political participation. B'nai B'rith stands for opportunity, for tolerance, for opposition to anti-semitism and the ugly face of hate in all its forms. You stand too for stalwart support for America's close friend and ally, Israel.

And, let me simply say that on all these issues, I am proud to stand with you. //

Thank you. May God bless the state of Israel -- and may God bless the United States of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

92 SEP 8 P1:26

September 8, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: B'Nai B'Rith

We have reviewed the attached presidential remarks and have noted a few suggested changes on the draft.

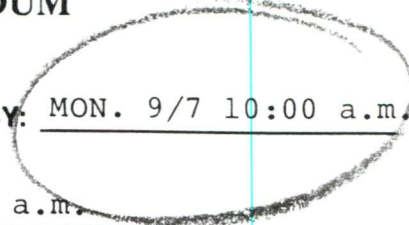
If you have any questions or we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 9/4/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MON. 9/7 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: B'NAI B'RITH
 SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 8 - 11:00 a.m.



	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MULLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ZOELICK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., MONDAY, SEPT. 7, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

Draft 3
September 4, 1992
9:00 p

12 SEP 4 FID: 21

[BNAI]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: B'NAI B'RITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 8, 1992
11:00 A.M.

It is a great honor to be here with you today.

[Acknowledgements.]

We've witnessed a world of change. Across Europe, across continents, from Panama City to Prague, millions of men and women now celebrate a new birth of freedom -- a new world of hope.

With change comes new challenges. For America, the end of the Cold War means the beginning of a new era -- a new era of economic competition that America simply must and will win. We must recognize the new reality about domestic, economic and foreign policies. In our world today, these three topics have become one issue. In order to prevail, the United States must be not only a military superpower, but an economic superpower -- an export superpower as well. //

Yet you and I both know that America is about more than the PRODUCING GOODS AND SERVICES. ^{IS NOT} ~~Our strength as a people cannot only be measured~~ ^{MERELY} ~~by per~~ capita income. The state of our American union reflects not simply the productivity of our economy but the character of our society: How well we care for one another, in the wake of natural tragedies like Hurricane Andrew -- in the face of all-too-human tragedies of hate and unreason and violence. ^{OUR CHARACTER} ~~This~~ is

NOTE: IT IS NOT CLEAR
WHAT "THIS" REFERS TO.

what defines us. This is the true measure of what America means, to ourselves -- to the world.

This willingness to reach out, to help those in need -- to recognize across all the divides of color and culture and creed our shared human spirit -- this is what B'Nai B'rith is all about. For 150 years, the members of this organization have served as the nation's conscience. And part of America's conscience must always be to fight anti-semitism wherever and whenever it appears.

I wish that I could stand before you today and say that anti-semitism is history; ⁴ ~~but~~ it is not. Not when there are hate crimes here and brown shirts abroad. ~~And let's call the thing by its right name -- not neo Nazis, but Nazis. That's a sorry commentary on human nature.~~ ?

~~And let's all be clear:~~ Neither Jew nor Gentiles ^g is safe so long as anti-semitism ^{PERSISTS} festers.

^{HERE AT HOME WE ARE HARD AT WORK.} ~~But we're not helpless. And we're doing something about it.~~

// ~~In this country, we~~ ^{ARE} will aggressively employ ^{ING} the Hate Crimes Act to bring to justice those who traffic in the gutter. And I ~~give you this pledge,~~ ^{TO} I will continue to do my utmost, here and abroad, so that this prejudice is finally / finally, finally, banished from the human heart.!

~~But we're not helpless. And we're doing something about it.~~

REPEAT #

// ~~In this country, we will aggressively employ the Hate Crimes Act to bring to justice those who traffic in the gutter. And I give you this pledge: I will continue to do my utmost,~~

~~here and abroad, so that this prejudice is finally, finally, finally, banished from the human heart!~~

~~In the end,~~ anti-semitism and prejudice mock and threaten the basic principle upon which the United States is founded. They mock our belief in individual rights and in ~~the~~ human being⁵ created as the Bible tells us, in the image of God. ~~And~~ because of that powerful belief, ~~in basic humanity,~~ nothing is more sacred to Americans than the principle of religious liberty.

In the words of George Washington, whose letter we rededicate today: "...the government of the United States... gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution, no assistance.... While everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid." And here's the difference, the vital difference between this American creed and others. Because for us ~~that~~ freedom of religion is no gift of government -- no privilege to be granted or withheld -- it is a fundamental human right. //

Let's take heart that this American creed is spreading, that people in our time are demanding and getting ~~these~~^e rights they have been denied so long. And changes in our world have come so fast that I say they are nothing short of Biblical -- and by that I mean just plain old fashioned miraculous.

Just think about it. Just a few years ago, who would have thought we would no longer live under the threat of nuclear ~~conflagration~~^{WAR}? Who would have thought the scarring symbol of an era -- the Berlin Wall -- would be found only in museums and

chipped into paperweights? Above all, who would have predicted the Soviet Union would be found only in the pages of history?

And know this: the miracles aren't only confined to Europe. ~~Even~~^q in the Middle East, events have defied all the predictions. ~~For~~⁼ today, direct, bilateral talks are taking place between Israel and her neighbors.

~~*SOME SUGGESTED*~~
~~You may recall we were told we couldn't succeed -- we~~
couldn't bring the parties together. But we did.

I want to dwell for a moment on this breakthrough, because I know it matters deeply to everyone in this hall. Let me take you back nearly a year ago to another hall, in Madrid. There, gathered around the table were representatives of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Palestinians -- and Israel. For nearly half a century they had not met outside the battlefield. But for the first time they came together not to fight -- but to talk.

Then, as now, the goal is not just a ceasefire or a truce, but peace, real peace. Not simply the end of war -- but genuine reconciliation. A peace both broad and deep, a peace codified by treaties, and given life by trade and tourism, by open borders - - the fabric of peace knit together even more tightly by the simple human contact of peoples who've known each other far too long as enemies. A comprehensive peace, rooted in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. A peace that at long last will allow the peoples of the Middle East to turn their energies,

their resources, their lives to creation rather than destruction -- to great works rather than great wars.

Today, as we speak, the parties that met first at Madrid are mid-way through the sixth round of bilateral negotiations. There has been progress. Delegations are exchanging not only handshakes, but for the first time -- written proposals. Public posturing has decreased -- and meaningful private dialogue has increased.

Of course, major hurdles remain. It will take time and effort and courage and trust. But there is clearly a way -- and increasingly, a will.

The evidence is mounting: The many positive steps taken by Israel's new government that improve day-to-day life for Palestinians and signal its seriousness about peace -- Egypt's invitation that made it possible for Prime Minister Rabin to make his first trip outside Israel to an Arab country -- Syria's relaxation of travel restrictions affecting its Jewish citizens. Further gestures, such as an end to the Arab boycott, can only help in bringing about an environment conducive for negotiation and reconciliation.

I am proud of the role we've played in breaking the long-standing taboo against direct talks between Israel and her neighbors. Israel sought direct talks for 43 years -- and it was right to do so. If you do not talk -- you can have no hope of making peace. Now, there is such a hope.

I'm also proud of what we have done to end Israel's diplomatic isolation internationally. Thanks to our efforts, we succeeded -- after 17 years -- in getting the UN General Assembly to repeal what should never have been enacted in the first place.

Zionism is not racism -- not before / not now / not ever. //

And thanks to our efforts, China and India and Turkey and many other nations -- countries representing 2 billion people -- now have full diplomatic relations with Israel. Already this has created not only greater contact for Israel worldwide, but new economic opportunities.

And I know this audience knows of our efforts to open the gates in the former Soviet Union and rescue Ethiopian Jews. Now hundreds of thousands of Jewish men, women and children who only a few years ago lived in fear or neglect in the Soviet Union or Ethiopia now live in Israel, free to live, work and worship as ~~their heart tells them they must.~~ ^{ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF THEIR CONSCIENCE.}

Persuading parties to talk peace / ending Israel's international isolation / assisting in the ⁱⁿgathering of Jews ^{TO} ~~into~~ Israel: These are the three great aims that have guided Israel from its founding. And we didn't just talk about helping Israel in these areas -- we delivered. That's a fact of which every American can be proud.

~~And here's another fact.~~ ^{I AM PROUD THAT} When the chips were down, when Israel and many other countries were threatened by the most brutal aggression, America was there. We stopped Saddam Hussein.

And that terrible time when the world feared that the Cold War would be replaced by a new age of Saddam ~~--- that's over, too.~~^{is} Let's recall some simple facts. Saddam Hussein's rise to power and aggression were not caused by the United States.

We were not the reason Saddam Hussein was on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons. We were not the reason Saddam Hussein had 5000 tanks -- or 5000 pieces of artillery -- or the 4th largest army in the world. This was his own doing.

DELETE { And whatever differences I had with my critics -- and with some would-be revisionists who want to rewrite history -- cannot obscure this fact: After August 2, while my critics stood by and second guessed -- I acted to take care of that threat.

Ask yourself where the Middle East would be today -- where Israel's security would be today -- if we had followed the counsel of my critics. Ask yourself where we would be if we had someone in the Oval Office who would have mattered -- who would have wavered and wanted to have it both ways. Where would we be? I'll tell you: We'd be facing a nuclear-armed Iraq, with a choke-hold on the world's oil supplies -- and threatening Israel's very existence. Israel's very survival would be at stake -- and we'd be talking about whether there was any chance to avoid nuclear Armageddon in the Middle East.

~~well,~~ Desert Storm swept away that nightmare and because of America's courage today, we see the dawn of peace.

There is still work to be done. The Middle East -- indeed, the world -- is still a dangerous place. Terrorists continue to

target the innocent. The proliferation of conventional arms as well as weapons of mass destruction casts a cloud over the region's future; Iraq's Saddam Hussein, however much weaker and defeated, still brutalizes his own people and resists the will of the international community. The need for Israel to remain strong is beyond question, and it clearly includes having a defensive capability against missile attack. The importance of that was demonstrated by the Gulf War. And that's the reason that I've proposed to Israel that it participate in our development of a global protection system! So, the need for US-Israeli strategic partnership and cooperation remains stronger than ever.

And we're also going to see that partnership at work this week. Because I am happy to tell you that I am sending to the Congress legislation requesting up to \$10 billion in loan guarantees to aid Israel's government in the absorption of these newcomers. ~~And~~ I know I can count on the support of every one in this room to make sure that this proposal becomes law.

I am glad that Prime Minister Rabin and I were able to reach an understanding on loan guarantees when we met in Kennebunkport last month. He outlined for me the new Israeli government's new priorities, committed to investing in Israel itself, and determined to avoid steps that could hamper progress toward peace. I share that commitment. And, as a result, we will be able to promote peace and welcome new immigrants at one and the same time. Both are humanitarian undertakings; both deserve our

full support. It was important not to choose between them, and I am glad that we are now in a position to promote both objectives.

As for the future, I am confident that on most issues, on most occasions, we and Israel will find ourselves in agreement. I, for one, am committed to revitalizing the tradition of full consultations between the United States and Israel on the entire range of issues affecting stability in the Middle East. I know ~~the~~ Prime Minister ^{RABIN} shares this commitment. And let me emphasize this point: There will be no surprises.

I pledge to you that we will work hard to keep any ~~divide~~ ^{DIFFERENCES} to a minimum. Our support for Israel and its security is not simply a policy. It is a principle. As I said after Prime Minister Rabin and I met in Maine, this is a relationship based on a shared commitment to democracy and common values, as well as a shared commitment to Israel's security, including its qualitative military edge. This is a special relationship, one ~~specially~~ built to endure.

No doubt there will be times when we disagree. Even friends disagree. Even democratic governments like Israel and the United States disagree. But here's the point: These are disagreements between friends and I emphasize that word, friends.

There may even be issues where you and I will take opposing sides. ~~And things may get hot and words,~~ hurtful words, may be exchanged. // In the past, some remarks of mine were misinterpreted. I have ~~gone on the record~~ ^{PUBLICLY} expressing ^{ed} my sorrow for any pain this may have caused, ~~and I'll go on the record again.~~

~~right here and now again.~~ But let me also express the hope that some of the critics who've been ~~a little~~ quick to use words like "anti-semitism" will also rethink what they've said.

Let's be clear about this: I support, I endorse, and I deeply believe in the God-given right of every American to promote what they believe. ~~It is your right as an individual. It's more than a right. It's a duty as an American citizen.~~ //

But let me also say that it is important that we learn how to disagree. How a debate is conducted in a democracy is not careless, it's a mark of civility and freedom. I hardly need to tell anyone in this room just what anti-semitism is. As my friend Abe Foxman pointed out, to accuse those who may come to different conclusions on one or another public issue of harboring anti-semitism is to cheapen the term. That is dangerous. That is deeply wrong. ~~And when those words, without justice, have been aimed at me -- I can tell you: They cut to the heart.~~ //

But let's put all of this aside now and look to the future. I've talked to you here about my optimism for that future. We come of at a blessed time. The Cold War is over. And Israeli peace talks have begun.

There is another reason to be optimistic. The American people will soon exercise their unbroken two hundred year democratic right to elect a President. And I'm optimistic too about the identity of that new President [~~-- so there I go again in the Harry Truman mode.~~] But, let me leave you with this. However it turns out, commitment to freedom and democracy, to

tolerance and opportunity in America and around the world will not change.

You are members of a community that has long and great tradition of political participation. B'nai B'rith stands for opportunity, for tolerance, for opposing anti-semitism and the ugly face of hate in all its forms. You stand too for stalwart support for America's close friend and ally, Israel.

And, let me simply say that on all these issues, I am proud to stand with you.

Thank you -- and may God bless the United States of America.

#