

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO 001-07

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 21, 1989

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE NORMAN F. LENT

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR  
ELECTIONS ON THE WEST BANK AND IN GAZA AND  
URGES REEVALUATION TO CONDUCT "SUBSTANTIVE  
DIALOGUE" WITH THE PLO

## ACTION

## DISPOSITION

| ROUTE TO:<br>OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME)   | ACT<br>CODE | DATE<br>YY/MM/DD | TYPE<br>RESP | C<br>D | COMPLETED<br>YY/MM/DD |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|
| FREDERICK MCCLURE          |                | ORG         | 89/04/21         | FM           |        | 89/05/01 TR           |
| 99 DOS                     | REFERRAL NOTE: | R           | 89/05/14         |              |        | 1/1                   |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             | 1/1              |              |        | 1/1                   |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             | 1/1              |              |        | 1/1                   |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             | 1/1              |              |        | 1/1                   |
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FREDERICK MCCLURE

ORG 89/04/21 FM 89/05/01 TR

REFERRAL NOTE:

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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240

MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES:           | *DISPOSITION         | *OUTGOING            | * |
| *                        | *                    | *CORRESPONDENCE:     | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION    | *A-ANSWERED          | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS  | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM         | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | *OF SIGNER           | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE        | *C-COMPLETED         | *CODE = A            | * |
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| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* |                      | *OUTGOING            | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * |                      |                      | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE *       |                      |                      | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY *       |                      |                      | * |

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75,OEOb) EXT-2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

May 1, 1989

Dear Norm:

On the President's behalf, I would like to thank you for your April 20 letter regarding the situation in the Middle East.

We appreciate having the benefit of your thoughts regarding peace in that region and have taken the liberty of sharing your comments with the President's key advisers in this area. I am sure that your concerns will receive their close attention, and I have suggested that they provide you with additional comments in the near future.

Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Frederick D. McClure  
Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Norman F. Lent  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:KRJ:

cc: w/copy of inc to Janet Mullins, cong affrs, State - for  
DIRECT response

11  
NORMAN F. LENT

4TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE  
RANKING REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE AND  
FISHERIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 20, 1989

29217  
PLEASE ADDRESS REPLIES TO THE  
WASHINGTON, DC, OFFICE  
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2408 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-7896

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
☐ ROOM 300, 2280 GRAND AVENUE  
BALDWIN, NY 11510  
TELEPHONE: (516) 223-1616

☐ MASSAPEQUA PARK VILLAGE HALL  
151 FRONT STREET  
MASSAPEQUA PARK, NY 11762  
TELEPHONE: (516) 795-4454

*F. McInerney*  
Honorable George Bush  
Office of the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Shamir's recent visit to Washington has focused new attention on U.S. efforts to promote peace in the Middle East. The Administration's expressed support for holding elections on the West Bank and in Gaza as a means of identifying responsible negotiating partners is a promising step toward that goal. Egyptian President Mubarak's and Jordan's King Hussein's endorsement of your diplomatic entreaties offer a new glimmer of hope as well. As a long-time friend of Israel in the United States Congress, I appreciate your continued commitment to maintaining the lasting bonds that tie our two democratic nations together.

However, in light of recent incidents, I urge you to reevaluate the Administration's decision to conduct "substantive dialogue" with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). In his speech before the United Nations, PLO leader Yassir Arafat boldly renounced terrorism, a claim warmly embraced as truth by the pro-Arab council. Mr. Arafat made this claim despite the PLO's 25-year history of waging guerilla warfare, hijackings, and bloody violence against innocent people -- what they call legitimate forms of resistance, not terrorism. But in view of this record, and more recent events, I believe it would be prudent to adhere to the old adage "actions speak louder than words."

Over the past several months, terrorist attacks have occurred at the Israel-Lebanon border. Fortunately, they have been foiled in time to prevent further bloodshed. Yet Arafat has failed to publicly condemn such barbarism against innocent civilians. Even more disturbing are his threats of violence against any West Bank Palestinian who negotiates with the Israeli government. These actions belie his "no terrorism" pledge.



Honorable George Bush  
Page 2  
April 20, 1989

Arafat may claim that he cannot be held responsible for the actions of other groups. But the burden is on him to convince his Arab supporters to follow his lead. If he cannot demonstrate that he is the true leader of the Palestinian people, U.S. officials must ask whether Arafat can deliver on any of his promises.

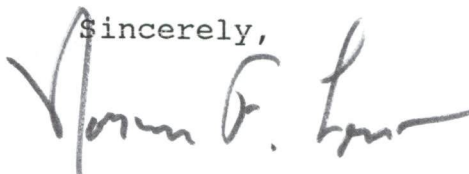
Furthermore, no change in semantics can hide the truth that the PLO's covenant is still committed to the armed struggle and destruction of Israel. If the PLO and Arafat are sincere, changes in the Palestine National Charter should be made acknowledging Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

For 40 years, Israel has struggled against mighty odds to protect her security and very survival against hostile Arab nations. In fact, the threat to Israel's security today may be greater than ever. The Saudis are helping to re-build Iraq's nuclear reactor, Syria has acquired Soviet missiles and Libya is allegedly producing dangerous chemical weapons.

We should not allow our burning desire for peace and weariness from the tension and constant struggle in the Middle East to blind us to the reality of Israel's difficult situation. For all our good intentions, we must not pressure or harass her into making mortally dangerous concessions that could jeopardize the future of the Jewish state.

With U.S. support, the peace process may continue to move forward one small step at a time. However slowly it moves, we must be patient and reaffirm our commitment to our democratic ally, Israel, every step of the way. For no agreement can truly guarantee peace that does not guarantee Israel's independence and security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Norman F. Lent", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

NORMAN F. LENT  
Member of Congress

NFL:st

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CO 001-07

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 21, 1989

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| OFFICE/AGENCY     | (STAFF NAME)   | CODE   | YY/MM/DD | RESP        | D YY/MM/DD    |
| FREDERICK MCCLURE |                | ORG    | 89/04/21 | FM          | A 89/05/01 TR |
| ✓ 99 DOS          | REFERRAL NOTE: | R      | 89/05/16 |             | A 89/04/28 TR |
| LAMCC             | REFERRAL NOTE: | A      | 89/06/26 | EXT         | C 89/06/28    |
|                   | REFERRAL NOTE: |        | /        | TR          | /             |
|                   | REFERRAL NOTE: |        | /        |             | /             |
|                   | REFERRAL NOTE: |        | /        |             | /             |

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MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8911027

Date June 22, 1989

For: Mr. Philip Hughes  
Executive Secretary  
National Security Council  
The White House

Reference:

To: The President From: Congressman Norman Lent

Date: April 20, 1989 Subject: Dialogue with the  
PLO

Referral Dated: May 16, 1989 ID# 029217  
(if any)

\_\_\_\_\_ The attached item was sent directly to the  
Department of State

Action Taken:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A draft reply is attached.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A draft reply will be forwarded.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A translation is attached.
- XX An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We believe no response is necessary for the reason  
cited below.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Department of State has no objection to the  
proposed travel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (see remarks).

Remarks:

*Magueline Carter*  
Director  
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)





United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUN 21 1989

Dear Mr. Lent:

Thank you for your letter to President Bush of April 20, 1989, sharing your thoughts on developments in the Middle East. The President has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The United States remains firmly committed to pursuing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Our policy is founded on unchanging principles: peace is only achievable through direct negotiations based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338; any settlement must provide for the security of all states in the region and for the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

On December 14, Yasser Arafat, speaking in Geneva as Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, accepted UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, recognized Israel's right to exist, and renounced terrorism. This represented a positive change in PLO positions, fulfilling longstanding U.S. conditions for the start of a substantive dialogue with that organization. In keeping with our oft-stated intention to open a dialogue if our conditions were met, the U.S. Ambassador in Tunis met with PLO representatives for the first time on December 16.

Our dialogue with the PLO is not an end in itself. We view the dialogue as one more step toward the beginning of direct negotiations among the parties in the region, which alone can lead to peace. Nor does the start of a dialogue imply U.S. acceptance of an independent Palestinian state. The final status of the West Bank and Gaza must be determined in negotiations, not through unilateral acts by either side.

The firm U.S. stance against terrorism is not affected by our decision to open a dialogue with the PLO. On the contrary, we will use the dialogue to stress that there can be no return to terrorism by the PLO anywhere. You specifically mention cross-border attempts undertaken by certain Palestinian groups

The Honorable  
Norman F. Lent,  
House of Representatives.

into Israel from south Lebanon. We do not condone this type of activity, and view such attempted incursions with serious concern. When the PLO renounced terrorism last December, we assumed Mr. Arafat spoke in the name of PLO's Executive Committee and its constituent groups, and that the PLO would exercise control over these constituent groups. We recognized from the beginning that some groups and factions, particularly those based in Damascus, were opposed to the positive evolution in PLO attitudes toward Israel and would be trying to undermine the U.S.-PLO dialogue and block movement in the peace process. Nonetheless, if the PLO leadership cannot or will not exercise such control, it raises questions regarding commitments that might be undertaken in the name of the PLO, a point we have stressed to the PLO. Secretary Baker addressed this issue when he said that attacks of this nature are contrary to the peaceful objectives of our dialogue.

Concerning alleged PLO threats of violence against West Bank Palestinians, we are distressed at the violence and feel it injects tension into an already volatile situation. Indeed, we are alarmed by the generally rising tide of violence and are shocked by the increasing human toll in the West Bank and Gaza. Confrontations between the IDF and Palestinians have caused many deaths. As you point out, Palestinians have been killed by other Palestinians during the intifada. All these actions frustrate the search for peace. We have strongly urged that all sides exercise restraint so violent actions can be replaced with a climate conducive to political dialogue.

The U.S. commitment to Israel's survival and security remains unshakable. It is one of the fundamental bases of our approach to Arab-Israeli peace making. We believe Israel must remain strong, and we will not allow any party to drive a wedge between us. We believe Israel's security can best be achieved and guaranteed over the long term in the context of a comprehensive peace.

All parties have a responsibility to contribute to advancing the peace process. I can assure you that the U.S. will continue actively to pursue the search for peace in the Middle East.

Sincerely,

*Wm Mullins*  
Janet G. Mullins  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs



THE WHITE HOUSE 091027 C E  
REFERRAL '89 MAY-16 10:52 AM

MAY 16, 1989

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:  
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 029217  
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 20, 1989  
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH  
FROM: THE HONORABLE NORMAN LENT  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON DC 20515

SUBJECT: INDICATES HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT YOUR  
DECISION TO CONDUCT "SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE"  
WITH THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.  
QUESTIONS YASSIR ARAFAT'S SINCERITY IN  
DENOUNCING TERRORISM AT THE UNITED NATIONS,  
DESPITE THE PLO'S HISTORY OF WAGING GUERRILLA  
WARFARE, HIJACKINGS, ETC. STATES THAT WE  
MUST NOT PRESSURE ISRAEL INTO MAKING MORTALLY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN  
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE  
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE  
(OR DRAFT) TO:  
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

May 1, 1989

Dear Norm:

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Thank you again for your interest in writing.

With best regards,

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Washington, D.C. 20515

FDM:KRJ:

cc: w/copy of inc to Janet Mullins, cong affrs, State - for  
DIRECT response

NORMAN F. LENT  
4TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE  
RANK IN REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE AND  
FISHERIES

SUB COMMITTEE ON  
MERCHANT MARINE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 1989

29217  
PLEASE ADDRESS REPLIES TO THE  
WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE  
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED  
WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2408 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
TELEPHONE (202) 225-7896  
DISTRICT OFFICES  
ROOM 300, 2280 GRAND AVENUE  
BALDWIN, NY 11510  
TELEPHONE (516) 223-1616  
MASSAPEQUA PARK VILLAGE HALL  
151 FRONT STREET  
MASSAPEQUA PARK, NY 11762  
TELEPHONE (516) 795-4454

Honorable George Bush  
Office of the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

0911027

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Honorable George Bush  
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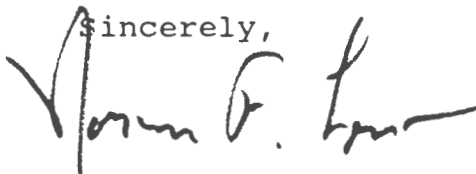
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Member of Congress

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