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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 20, 1989

Dear Zbig:

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on the international conference on the Middle East. We are not far apart on what the international conference is intended to accomplish. Our conception of an international conference has always been as a vehicle to facilitate direct negotiations. The problem is that the gap between the two sides over the heart of the negotiation -- the "final status" issues -- is so large that a conference now could be premature. We will hold open the possibility of holding a conference as an option for handling the negotiations when the positions of the parties merge sufficiently to provide diplomatic opportunity.

With regard to a speech around the time of the anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, we look forward to your conveying further ideas to Brent.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Zbigniew Brzezinski
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