

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 14, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. ELIAS T. SAADI

SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SICHAN SIV		ORG	90/02/14		C 90/02/15 TR
OPL JEAVONS	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	90/02/15		C 90/02/16 TR
USCOW	REFERRAL NOTE:	A	90/02/20		C 90/02/22 TR
	REFERRAL NOTE:	R	90/2/26		A 90/03/08 TR
	REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

*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	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		*OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *			*

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.

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9004344

Date March 8, 1990

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

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: Dr. Elias T. Saadi

Date: February 7, 1990

Subject: Concerns regarding peace in the Middle East

WH Referral Dated: February 26, 1990
NSCS ID# (if any): 113969

 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:

Trudy Ely
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

March 8, 1990

Dr. Elias T. Saadi
Ohio Heart Institute
1001 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44504

Dear Dr. Saadi:

Thank you for your letter of February 7 to President Bush regarding U.S. policy toward Lebanon. I have been asked to respond on the President's behalf.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate that our policy toward Lebanon has not changed. The United States supports the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Lebanon. We also support the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, and the end of all armed militias. We believe that the best way to achieve these goals is the extension of President Hrawi's authority throughout Lebanon and the implementation of the Taif Accord. We see Taif not as a perfect or final solution, but as the agreed beginning of a process that can lead to peaceful reconciliation and the withdrawal of foreign forces.

The United States has consistently called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon: Syrian, Israeli, and Iranian. We have asked the Syrian government to support President Hrawi through such actions as a first-stage withdrawal of its troops from some areas of Lebanon. We have worked actively with our European allies and Arab friends to push all sides in Lebanon toward a peaceful resolution. President Bush and Secretary Baker have discussed Lebanon regularly with their Soviet counterparts. We believe that the Soviets have been helpful on Lebanon, and we share many common views on the outcome desired.

We do not believe, however, that sending a U.S. special envoy to Lebanon would be a productive strategy at this time. Any new U.S. unilateral initiative would detract from the ongoing efforts of the Arab League to reach a solution -- efforts that the U.S. Government has strongly encouraged -- and efforts which brought forth the Taif Accord.

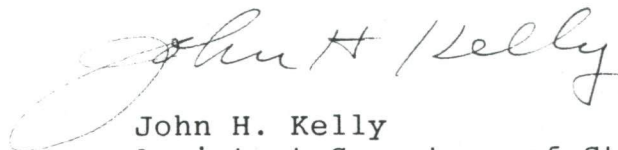
We do not believe that an envoy should negotiate between Elias Hrawi, the legitimately elected President of Lebanon, and General Aoun, who has up to now refused to

recognize Hrawi's authority or deal with him. Aoun has shown no inclination to compromise. His resort to senseless violence has, in our view, eliminated any chance that he can play a positive role in Lebanon's future.

Without a reasonable possibility of success -- which we do not believe exists -- a U.S. special envoy to Lebanon would only further complicate the situation. I should add that we have every intention of sending Ambassador McCarthy and his staff back to Lebanon just as soon as the security situation permits and the Embassy can operate effectively. In the meantime, we are in frequent contact with President Hrawi with a view to giving him our full support.

We understand the concern of Americans, and especially the American Task Force for Lebanon, about the current situation in Lebanon. We share that concern and the frustration that fifteen years of suffering have not brought resolution of Lebanon's tragedy. I assure you that this administration has not abandoned Lebanon and is working actively to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict there.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Kelly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John H. Kelly
Assistant Secretary of State for
Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

9004344

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

FEBRUARY 26, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 113969

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: DR. ELIAS T. SAADI
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AMERICAN TASK FORCE FOR LEBANON
OHIO HEART INSTITUTE
1001 BELMONT AVENUE
YOUNGSTOWN OH 44504

SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

113969

Sachan Siv

Ohio Heart Institute

9004344

February 7, 1990

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Senator Bob Dole gave a speech at the American Task Force for Lebanon dinner in Los Angeles, California on February 3, 1990, which I emphatically endorse. He demands that our government take forthright and decisive action on Lebanon now!

As the world's greatest democracy and most compassionate people, we can no longer neglect Lebanon and stand by while it self-destructs under the brutal occupation and domination by foreign forces, particularly Syria.

There is a fear of failure that pervades our State Department that is shameful and it appears that some of our foreign policy toward Lebanon is being conducted on personal pique. This is an abdication of our international responsibilities. Lebanon should not be a peripheral annoyance to the intractability of the Israeli-Palestinian peace effort. Indeed, I propose that immediate and courageous action in Lebanon is more likely to produce fruitful overall momentum for Middle East peace than anywhere else.

Middle East peace efforts will be hastened if we can: (1) effect serious unification of all factions in Lebanon and the withdrawal of Syrian forces; (2) reconstruct a unified national Lebanese army that will prevent terrorist incursions from Southern Lebanon thus eliminating the need for Israeli occupation and (3) have that Lebanese army neutralize the terrorist groups in Lebanon that are a source of much of the terrorism in the world.

Please direct our State Department to follow Senator Dole's clear and well thought out recommendations. Furthermore, I ask that they be instructed to stop the constant negative rhetoric against the leadership of the Lebanese army, that army which is trained by and owes so much to the United States. It is humiliating and demoralizing. Humanity, conscience, compassion, and 2.5 million Lebanese Americans demand that decisive action be taken immediately.

We who are your avid supporters are looking for the decisive leadership that you have promised us on several occasions in regard to Lebanon.

Sincerely,

Elias T. Saadi

Elias T. Saadi, M.D.
Executive Committee
American Task Force for Lebanon