

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

CO 001-67

DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 13, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. SHOLOM D. COMAY

SUBJECT: VIEWS ON THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
SARAH DECAMP		ORG	90/03/13		C 90/04/02 TR
99 DOS	REFERRAL NOTE:	R	90/04/04		A 90/04/18 TR
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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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9008158

Date April 18, 1990

FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann
Acting Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: Mr. Shalom D. Comay

Date: March 9, 1990

Subject: Views on the city of Jerusalem

WH Referral Dated: April 4, 1990

NSCS ID# (if any): 122162

_____ 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.

X X 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:

Shalom D. Comay
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 18, 1990

Mr. Shalom D. Comay
President
The American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York, NY 10022-2746

Dear Mr. Comay:

I have been asked to reply to your March 9 letter to the President regarding U.S. policy on Jerusalem. We appreciated very much hearing your views.

The question of the future of Jerusalem is a complicated and emotional issue. We are aware of the great significance which Jerusalem has for the Jewish people as well as for people of all religions. Our longstanding view is that Jerusalem must remain undivided. There can be no return to the status quo before 1967. Access to the holy sites must be ensured for people of all faiths.

Because it has long been our policy that Jerusalem must remain united and undivided, with its eventual status to be determined through negotiation, it follows that Jews and others have the right to live anywhere in the city.

The status of a unified Jerusalem must ultimately be decided through negotiation. In the meantime, we urge all sides to avoid unilateral acts or unilateral assertions of rights that might make it more difficult to make progress in the peace process. Such a negotiation would be facilitated if we were well along on the path to peace, and thus there is no intention now to focus on the final status of Jerusalem.

Israel's political system is now in the midst of important internal discussions. I can assure you that once a new government is formed, we will continue our peace efforts. The Administration is prepared to assist the parties in the Middle East toward attainment of a just and durable peace. We remain strongly committed to the security of Israel and to the search for peace.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Kurtzer
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs

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

REFERRAL

9008158
APRIL 4, 1990
'90 APR-10 8:10 PM

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 122162

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 9, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: MR. SHOLOM D. COMAY
PRESIDENT
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RELATIONS
165 EAST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10022

SUBJECT: VIEWS ON THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

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

122162



The American Jewish
Committee

Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56 Street
New York, New York 10022-2746
212 751-4000/FAX: 212 319-0975
Office of the President

Sholom D. Comay
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March 9, 1990

9008158

'90 APR-10 8:10 PM

S. De Camp

Honorable George Bush
President of the
United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you well know, the question of the future of Jerusalem is a complicated and deeply emotional one. It is for this reason that Dr. Henry Kissinger wisely suggested that Jerusalem be left to the end of the diplomatic process, when a climate of mutual trust had been established between Israel and its Arab neighbors. President Jimmy Carter likewise found at Camp David that it was impossible to achieve agreement between President Anwar Sadat and Prime Minister Menachem Begin on the issue of Jerusalem. Therefore, the issue was deferred for later discussion.

It is thus not surprising that the dedicated efforts that you and Secretary of State James Baker are investing in bringing about Israeli-Palestinian talks to prepare for implementation of the Israeli election plan in the occupied territories may well founder on issues related to East Jerusalem.

While American Jews may be divided, as are the Jews of Israel as to the best approach to peace, they are virtually united on one issue. Jerusalem must continue to remain a physically united city with free access for all faiths to their respective holy places, and the acknowledged capital of the State of Israel. We believe that this is consistent with United States policy.

We are confident that once these unshakable principles are accepted, elections for a self-governing authority held, and final status talks later begun, it should not be impossible to devise a formula whereby the Palestinians will enjoy self-government under a borough system, permitting Palestinian institutions to flourish in the united city of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem which for centuries was a center of strife, will genuinely live up to its Biblical name, "Abode of Peace."

Sincerely,

Sholom D. Comay

Sholom D. Comay
President