

FOIA MARKER

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FolderID:

Folder Title:

Mira Avrech

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United States Department of State

*Under Secretary of State
for Political Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 12, 1998

Dear Mike:

You have got an immense amount to do. I hesitate to be in touch.

The Israeli journalist that you were kind enough to see still wants to follow-up for her book. She has given me seven questions. I doubt you want to address them all.

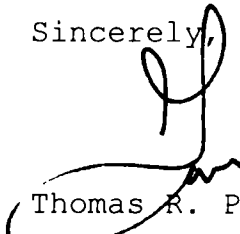
If you have got somebody who can put together answers, she would be deeply grateful. I suspect that if you can only respond to a few of them, she will nevertheless be deeply gratified. She plans to publish both in Hebrew and English and I suspect it will have a positive impact and a significant popular circulation in Israel and beyond.

She is interested mainly in vignettes, color, and non-substantive stuff. Like all good journalist she wants a personal angle.

If there is anything you can do, I would deeply appreciate it. She has had a good career, the Israeli political leadership has paid a lot of attention to her stories and articles, and she has been reliable in her reporting and extremely friendly and supportive of Americans.

With thanks for anything you can do,

Sincerely,

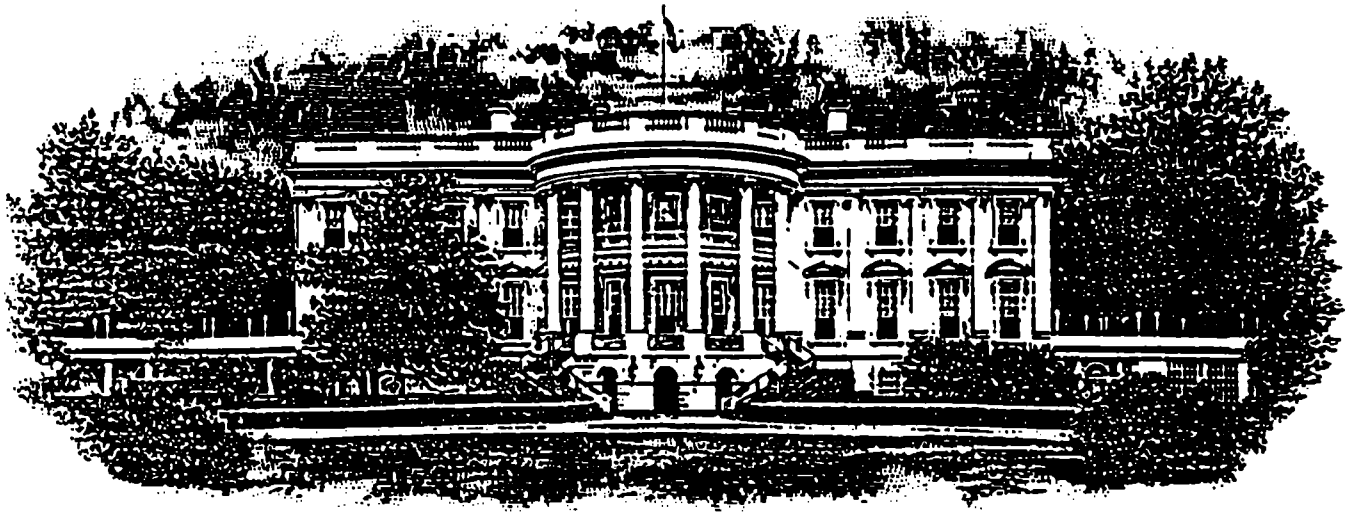


Thomas R. Pickering

Mike McCurry,
Press Spokesman,
The White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary



FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Kate

Fax number: 69490

From: Lori

Number of pages (including cover): 2

Comments: As we discussed on the

phone, Mike is looking for Mr. Steinberg's
guidance on these questions. They were
submitted by Mira Arrech, an Israeli
woman who is writing a book on the

Note: This facsimile is for official government business, and is intended for the person to whom it is addressed. If there are any difficulties with this transmission, please call (202) 456-2580. peace process and who has unfortunately been waiting for some time for a response.

Thank you!

1. What were the chapters from the Bible which he quietly quoted when standing at the window of King David's Royal Suite and looked at the Old City?
2. What motivates him to involve himself so deeply in the peace process of an area thousands of miles away from Washington?
3. What were his feelings the moment he learned about Rabin's assassination?
4. Describe his relationship with Prime Minister Rabin.
5. Who motivated the Sharem anti-terrorism get-together (if it can be described as such) and what were his inner feelings when he saw the heads of such different countries attend?
6. When was the President's first visit to Israel?

Tel Aviv, Israel
August 28, 1997

Michael McCurry
Press Spokesperson
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mike:

At a recent dinner with Mira Avrech, she mentioned to me her faxes to you requesting the answers from the President to questions for her upcoming book. She needs a response within the next few days as her manuscript goes to the publisher in the first week of September.

Is there anything I can do on my end to get her the answers she needs? I am attaching a copy of a fax from her that I received today listing some of the questions she would appreciate having answered.

As always, Mike, I appreciate the ready assistance you give to matters such as these. I know how hectic your days can be and I look forward to working with you very soon.

Sincerely,



Martin Indyk
Ambassador

CC: Tom Countryman, NSC

Mira Avrech

772N 7774

August 28, 1997

H.E. Ambassador Martin Indyk
 American Embassy
 Tel Aviv

URGENT and PERSONAL

Dear Martin,

I am crushed under heaps of documents and don't find the questions to the President that I handed Mike when I saw him at the White House. A month later I sent him another copy, which I don't find right now.

He actually said that he had wanted me to meet with the president but had not realised that I was only spending three days in Washington. Therefore it was him who suggested that he would ask those questions and that I could even use them in the chapter as in quotations by the president - which makes it more personal (as if I met him).

I remember a couple of questions I asked:

1. What were the chapters from the bible which he quietly quoted when standing at the window of the King David's Royal Suite and looked at the Old City.
2. What motivates him to involve himself so deeply in the peace process of an area thousands of miles away from Washinton.
3. His feelings the moment he learned about Rabin's assassination.
4. His relationship with Rabin in his own words.
5. Who motivated the Sharem anti-terror get together (if you can describe it as such) and what were his inner feelings when he watched the Heads of States of so different countries attend.

Martin, that's five of the ten questions I gave him. I can't remember the rest. When I was in Washington, Mike Mc'Curry's secretary, Lorry Andersen claimed she never got a fax from you. Since he did not answer you this time either, could it be that you have the wrong fax number? I have the right fax number because when I called her she confirmed that she had received my fax with the questions for the president. The correct fax number is: 1 202 456 6423.

A thousand thanks,

Love, Mira

Mira Avrech, Lea street Tel Aviv 69412 תל אביב 69412, רחוב 7, 14
 Tel: 972-3-6482213 Fax: 972-3-6482214 :פקס, 972-3- 6482213:טל

*Mira Avrech**מירה אברך*

Mr. Mike Mc'Curry
White House
Washington

July 28, 1997

Dear Mike,

Re: My fax to you dated July 2nd.

During my visit in your office with a number to questions I had hoped to ask the President, you were so kind as to suggest that you ask him those questions for me.

I am rather panicky since I have by the beginning of September I have to hand the manuscript in and and only miss the material for first chapter on the American involvement in general and the U.S. President Clinton's involvement in particular.

As it will take some time to sort the material out and write it I am under terrible pressure. Please be kind, Mike, and try to send or fax me the replies at your very earliest convenience.

Could you let me know when to expect them?

Thank you very-very much and warm wishes,



Mira Avrech

Mike-

I don't think
we ever received
a fax dated
July 2.

-Lori

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~MM~~
Lou —

These answers are

OK, but will

They do trick?

When is she going
to break-out?

Just make sure Monday
this is all we need

to give her to
keep her off our
back

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

5934

September 10, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR MIKE McCURRY

FROM: GLYN DAVIES *GD for*
SUBJECT: Response to Questions from Mira Avrich

As requested, attached are responses to the questions submitted by Mira Avrech. They have been cleared by Jim Steinberg. You will need to specifically ask the President for the answer to question one, as well as verify the answer to question six.

Attachment
Questions and Answers

we should
← check
pool reports,

1. What were the chapters from the Bible which he (the POTUS) quietly quoted when standing at the window of King David's Royal Suite and looked at the Old City?

A. Don't know.

2. What motivated him (POTUS) to involve himself so deeply in the peace process of an area thousands of miles away from Washington?

A. The President recognized that the United States has the capability and the responsibility to play the role of indispensable nation in this peace process. The President saw a unique opportunity created by the U.S. victory in the Gulf War, and that the United States' vital national interests could be advanced in a way that would also benefit the peoples of the region. The President believed that there was the possibility to help the children of the Middle East grow up in a better world; one that rose above the violence and allowed the potential of the next generation to be realized.

3. What were his (POTUS) feelings the moment he learned about Rabin's assassination?

A. Deep disappointment and sense of loss for a hero who took risks for peace. He also felt anguish at the passing of a close personal friend who had done so much for peace. He immediately said he would go to the funeral and put in an urgent call to Leah; they had been together only three weeks before.

4. Describe his (POTUS) relationship with Rabin.

A. The President saw in Rabin a leader; a man who could see the historic opening and was ready to reach for it. Rabin had a unique sense of Israel's security needs and a heroic image in Israel that gave Israelis confidence that he would protect their interests.

5. Who motivated the Sharm anti-terrorism get-together (if it can be described as such) and what were the inner feelings when he saw the heads of such different countries attend?

A. Sharm el-Sheikh was prompted by the series of suicide bombs in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in 1996 that created an urgent need to show regional and global support for the Middle East Peace Process. The peace process team urged a quick and decisive

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*we should
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pool reports*

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A. Sharm el-Sheikh was prompted by the series of suicide bombs in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in 1996 that created an urgent need to show regional and global support for the Middle East Peace Process. The peace process team urged a quick and decisive

response. The President made calls to Mubarak and others immediately to try to change the dynamics of the situation.

6. When was the POTUS' first visit to Israel?

His first visit was in late 1994.