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To

MAUREEN SHEA

Whitehouse religious
coordinator

FROM

ROHINTON M. RIVETNA

Fax # 630 754 1579

NO. OF PAGES : 3

COMMENT :

I am sending various
pamphlets in the mail.



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Forwarded to: Maureen Shea, Whitehouse
religious coordinator
202-456-6218

Zoroastrian Association
of Alberta

Zoroastrian Association
of Arizona

Zoroastrian Society
of British Columbia

California Zoroastrian
Center

Persian Zoroastrian
Organization (California)

Traditional Mazdayasni
Zoroastrian Anjuman

Zarthosthi Anjuman
of Northern California

Zoroastrian Association
of California

Zoroastrian Association
of Florida

Zoroastrian Association
of Metropolitan Chicago

Zoroastrian Association
of Kansas

Zoroastrian Association
of Greater Boston Area

Iranian Zoroastrian
Association (New York)

Zoroastrian Association
of Greater New York

Zoroastrian Society
of Ontario

Zoroastrian Association
of Pennsylvania

Zoroastrian Association
Pennsylvania & New Jersey

Zoroastrian Association
of Quebec

Zoroastrian Association
of Houston

Zoroastrian Association
of North Texas

Zoroastrian Association
of the Rocky Mountains

Zoroastrian Association
of Metropolitan Washington

Zoroastrian Society
of Washington State

President William Jefferson Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President

I am writing to you on behalf of the Zoroastrian community of the United States to announce the holding of the 7th World Zoroastrian Congress in Houston, Texas December 28, 2000 to January 1, 2001 and to request your guidance and assistance in facilitating this congress.

Zoroastrians are a minority wherever they settle with a population of under 250,000 throughout the globe. In US we number approximately 15,000. The majority of Zoroastrians reside in Iran and India each with a population of about 70,000 to 80,000 Zoroastrians. We are the followers of prophet Zarathushtra the ancient prophet of Iran. Enclosed is a pamphlet to give you a flavor of our ancient heritage.

As you probably know Zoroastrians first migrated from ancient Persia to India over a thousand years ago (the first Diaspora). Today Zoroastrians are spread throughout the world and consequently there has been a need to come together periodically to maintain our connectedness with each other particularly with fellow Zoroastrians from Iran and India. In the past 30 years we have held 6 World Zoroastrian congresses, 2 in Iran and 4 in India. For the first time North America will have the honor of holding a World Zoroastrian Congress in recognition of the coming of age of the second Diaspora in North America. We are naturally very eager to make this congress a success and hence we are approaching you for your assistance to arrange for delegates to come to the US from Iran, India and Pakistan. We are keenly aware of the tension between the US and Iran and to a lesser extent with India and Pakistan which is a serious deterrent for delegates coming from those countries to attend the congress in Houston. Our brethren from Iran cite the example of the Iranian sports team coming to the US having been provided visas in Tehran for entering the US. We are told that your office played a leading role in facilitating the Iranian sports team to come to the US. We are very hopeful that similar concessions could be provided for the Zoroastrian delegates coming from Iran to attend the 7th World Zoroastrian Congress in Houston. Americans as a nation must learn that there is an alternate

5750 South Jackson Street
Hinsdale, IL 60521
May 20, 1999

Called on 6-27-99 to check status
asked to wait another month.

Forwarded letter to Sarah Collector on 6-27-99
713-528-6423
Forwarded letter to Homi Davier on 6-27-99
713-337-2223

SM

FEDERATION OF ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

Corresponding Address: Framroze K. Patel, President, 9 South Circle, Woodbridge, New Jersey, USA 07095, tel: (732) 634-8585

Registered Address: 5750 South Jackson Street, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521, U.S.A., tel: (630) 325-5383 ●

NGO in consultative status (Roster) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

(3)

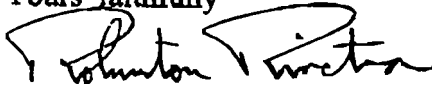
to bringing about peace in the world which is to engage in knowing each other and understanding each other.

We are requesting your assistance in approaching the Immigration and Naturalization Service who are otherwise unapproachable, to grant Zoroastrians this special dispensation to facilitate their travel to the US. The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) the North American umbrella organization with 23 member Associations across the US and Canada will provide help and support as needed to facilitate the process..

We will very much value your guidance and assistance in this regard. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

With our very best regards

Yours faithfully



Robinton M. Rivetna.

PS : It might be useful to know that the Iranian government took particular pride in holding the last Congress in Iran as a show of tolerance towards non- muslims. This event in the US may pose an opportunity to the US government to demonstrate our openness and good will towards all as a nation.

Expedite = VIP

Registration – photograph, fingerprints, documents

Request for the waiver of registration. Request from the gov or whatever sponsoring event.
(Iranian wrestlers had a waiver)

Go to the State Dept – main DOJ and INS to determine the request.

If waiver grant, flight lands = no problem.

DOJ or INS are not aware of any request to waiver of the registration.

- Did State Dept. request a waiver?
-

Background

- Referred to INS Internal Audit on Monday that conducted a review which included interviews with Esposito, completed its review and found no basis for the allegations.
- Internal Audit conducted an investigations that included all inspectors and Professor Esposito.
- INS Regulations from 5 countries that pose terrorist threats. Flag by secondary – Irna, Irqa, Sudan and Libya. Fingerprited, documents copies, photographs.
- (To get their visa, FBI interviewed the clerics in Iran and were cleared)
- INS knew they were coming before they got they arrived – b/c INS got manifest.(not b/c of what they were wearing).
- Met them when they arrived and took them to secondary to get fingerprinted, photographed and documents copied.
- In the interview, interviewees reported the Iranian clerics said that they requested an INS supervisors and supervisor explained why secondary inspection and they indicated that they were treated well. Esposito agreed too.
- Took 37 minutes not 2 hours
- When they wanted to pray, clerics said that a female made the comment. All INS and Customs officials were all male but the was full of passengers including females.

- When clerics asked to pray they asked if there was a place they could pray and INS said that they did not have any facility to pray.
- No complaints have been filed by the Iranian clerics.

Others issues = this could have been avoided had they got a waiver. Not sure if one was filed in the case.



● **Maureen T. Shea**

12/06/99 08:38:38 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Mary E. Cahill/WHO/EOP@EOP, Christine A. Stanek/WHO/EOP@EOP, Daniel E. O'Brien/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Kenneth M. Pollack/NSC/EOP@EOP, Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject:

John Esposito at Georgetown's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding forwarded me the story below and I sent to NSC and Irene here to find out about it. Below is Ken Pollock at NSC's response. I think we should do something but need your guidance - thanks.

----- Forwarded by Maureen T. Shea/WHO/EOP on 12/06/99 08:35 AM -----



Kenneth M. Pollack
12/06/99 08:29:46 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Maureen T. Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

bcc:

Subject: Re: Anything we can do about this?

Maureen:

I know, it is awful. We also have an Iranian soccer team coming.

Albright is speaking to Reno, who is the problem. Back in May, POTUS told Sandy that he did not want this happening ever again (remember same fiasco with wrestlers?). Sandy wrote Reno a letter and some low-level Justice staffer wrote back that Sandy should go take a hike.

Unless POTUS wants to pick up the phone and call Reno himself, I am doubtful we can do anything.

- Ken

Maureen T. Shea 12/04/99 10:59:46 AM



● **Maureen T. Shea**

12/04/99 10:59:46 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP, Scott Busby/NSC/EOP@EOP, Steven J. Naplan/NSC/EOP@EOP,
Kenneth M. Pollack/NSC/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Anything we can do about this?

Go to the President's alma mater no less.

----- Forwarded by Maureen T. Shea/WHO/EOP on 12/04/99 10:58 AM -----



John Esposito <espositj@gusun.georgetown.edu>

12/04/99 09:10:47 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Maureen T. Shea/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject:

December 4, 1999

Scholars Return to Iran, Citing I.N.S.
Rudeness

By JANE PERLEZ

WASHINGTON -- Six Iranian scholars invited to a conference
in Georgetown University have canceled their participation,
saying they were harassed and humiliated by immigration officials on
arriving at Kennedy International Airport, the organizer of the event said
Friday.

The organizer, John L. Esposito, director of the Center of
Muslim-Christian Understanding at the university, said the
Iranians described being fingerprinted and then ridiculed by officials
who detained them at the airport for several hours on Wednesday.

The scholars were granted visas under the People to People program sponsored by the State Department as part of a Clinton administration effort to encourage a dialogue between the two long-estranged countries. As part of the two-month process to apply for visas, their backgrounds were researched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the six, all men, were cleared, Esposito said.

One of the men said an immigration official had made derisive comments when the group said they wanted to pray, Esposito said. When one man raised his hands to signal that it was time to begin prayers, an official said, "Oh, that's what you do when you want to commit suicide," an apparent reference to the theory that a pilot on the EgyptAir flight that crashed recently had prayed and then put the plane into a suicide plunge.

The Iranians were fingerprinted on arrival under rules that require citizens of Iraq, Iran and Sudan to be fingerprinted to insure that they are not members of a terrorist organization or have histories of terrorism, a State Department official said.

Esposito said the scholars felt that they had been singled out because they wore religious clothes and most had beards. The scholars said other Iranians on the Turkish Airlines flight did not appear to be treated so roughly, Esposito recounted.

A spokesman for the State Department, James P. Rubin, stressed on Friday that the Administration supported people-to-people exchanges, adding, "We are engaged in active dialogue with the Department of Justice and the I.N.S. to try to insure that we can make the procedures as minimally intrusive as possible."

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