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UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9302038
RECEIVED: 31 MAR 93 12

TO: SIEGMAN, HENRY

FROM: PRESIDENT

CHRON FILE
DOC DATE: 17 MAY 93
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: RUSSIA
HUMAN RIGHTS

ISRAEL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LTR FM AMER JEWISH CONGRESS RE AID TO RUSSIA

ACTION: PRES SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 03 APR 93 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: GATI

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

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NSC CHRON
SANNER

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJDA

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DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

Rec'd 5/20 8:35am

JWR

5/20 1700 L

National Security Council
The White House

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URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM (PRS) NSC INT
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG (UA) A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
W DepExecSec	<u>1</u>	<u>UA</u>	
ExecSec			
Staff Director	<u>2</u>	<u>M</u>	
D/APNSA	<u>3</u>	<u>cy provided</u>	
APNSA	<u>4</u>	<u>Nat'l Sec Advisor has seen</u>	
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>5</u>	<u>(UA) 5/20</u>	<u>TO PDDESTA</u>
NSC Secretariat			

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc: VP McLarty Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS:

19 MAY 93 4:37

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

National Security Council
The White House

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BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG (UA) A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
DepExecSec	<u>1</u>	<u>UA</u>	<u>Review</u>
ExecSec			
Staff Director			
D/APNSA			
APNSA			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>(UA) 5/24</u>	<u>DN</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>3</u>		

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc: VP McLarty Other _____

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

COMMENTS:

Date: May 24, 1993?

19 MAY 93 12:40

DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS:

Exec Sec's Office has desked

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 24, 1993

Dear Messrs. Siegman and Litton:

Thank you for your letter regarding assistance to Russia and the removal of Russia from provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. I am pleased by your support for our policy toward Russia. I respect and value your opinion on this important issue.

I strongly believe that we must do all we can to support President Yeltsin and all Russian reformers. As you state in your letter, the stability of Russia's democratic system of government and the promotion of economic reform are the best means to protect Russia's Jewish population and its other minorities. We have made some good progress in recent weeks in developing our bilateral assistance program and in working with our G-7 allies to create a substantial multilateral program to support Russia's reforms.

To reflect the new era of U.S.-Russian partnership and cooperation we must, as you suggest in your letter, rationalize and update the laws and regulations that are vestiges of the Cold War era. I recently ordered an Executive review of these provisions, including the Jackson-Vanik amendment. For his part, President Yeltsin has agreed to look into cases of individuals who continue to face emigration restrictions.

By initiating this review and enlisting President Yeltsin's assistance, we hope to help remedy some of the circumstances that have

justified such provisions in the past. We plan to conduct a thorough review of Russia's emigration laws and practices to ensure that they meet international standards before we make any decision about Russia's permanent graduation from Jackson-Vanik provisions.

Thank you again for your views and your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Clinton".

Mr. Henry Siegman
Mr. Robert K. Litton
American Jewish Congress
Stephen Wise Congress House
15 East 84th Street
New York, New York 10028

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1993

03 MAY 20 P8:36

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE ✓

SUBJECT: Response to Letter from the American Jewish Congress Supporting Assistance to Russia

Purpose

To respond to a letter from the American Jewish Congress supporting aid to Russia and the rescission of the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

Background

Henry Siegman and Robert Litton, the American Jewish Congress' Executive Director and President respectively, wrote a letter (Tab B) supporting your policy to assist Russia and calling for the rescission of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. We have drafted a response thanking them for their support and outlining your recently announced Executive review of Cold War legislation, including the Jackson-Vanik amendment. The American Jewish Congress is the only major U.S.-Jewish organization to come out in favor of graduating Russia from Jackson-Vanik provisions. The most important Jewish groups, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews oppose graduating Russia from the Jackson-Vanik provisions but continue to support annual waivers.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the response at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Reply
Tab B Incoming

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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REDO

May 6, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE
THROUGH: TOBY GATI ^{NB} ^{for TG}
FROM: BETH SANNER ^{BS}
SUBJECT: Response to Letter from the American Jewish
Congress Concerning Jackson-Vanik Amendment

The American Jewish Congress sent a letter to the President supporting his policy toward Russia and supporting rescission of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. We have drafted a response from the President thanking the Congress for its support and outlining our review of Cold War legislation, including the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

Concurrence by: Nicholas Burns ^{NB} Jeremy Rosner ^{JR}

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memo to the President
Tab A Reply
Tab B Incoming

AJCongress

American Jewish Congress
Stephen Wise Congress House
15 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
212 879 4500 • Fax 212 249 3672

Office of the President

March 30, 1993

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare for your historic summit next weekend with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, allow us to express the American Jewish Congress' support for your initiatives to help Russia in its struggle toward democracy. In particular, we support your proposals for increased U.S. support, financial and political, for the Russian government, and we support a rescission of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, enacted in 1979, which prohibited the granting of Most Favored Nation trade status to the Soviet Union during its oppression of Soviet Jews.

These are fateful, trying days for the Russian people, but not for them alone. All of us, one way or another, stand to be affected by the advance or retreat of democracy in Russia and by the resulting relations between our two states. Those nations that, like the United States, are concerned with undergirding democracy, protecting human rights, and preserving individual freedom must help to build and sustain a free market economy that can effectively meet the material needs of the Russian people.

Mr. President, you have declared your intention to devise a detailed program of new initiatives to assist that end. We accept and endorse the proposition that such a program must entail a more generous foreign aid allocation to the Russian government.

We also call for rescission of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. We believe that, today, the most important protection that can be accorded Russian Jews – and all minorities in that country – is to promote the stability of the Russian government and the preservation of democratic institutions and practices. Removal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment would carry both symbolic and economic importance. It would constitute a significant gesture of support and would provide an additional stimulus and incentive for the still embryonic Russian private sector.

No one believes that the United States can unilaterally repair the Russian economy or reshape the Russian political system. But neither should the assistance we can reasonably offer be dismissed as negligible. A wise and bold course on our part can help allay current tensions and build confidence among the Russian people that, through courageous economic and political reform, the future can be redeemed.

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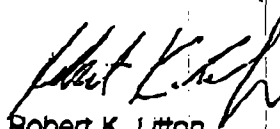
As Americans, and as Jews, we cannot be indifferent to the horrendous possibility of a regression to the dark age of Communist authoritarianism. We cannot afford to be passive in the face of such a threat. To the extent that we can help to prevent Russia from slouching backward into barbarism, we must.

Mr. President, as you prepare to face the challenges that await you at your summit in Vancouver, we hope you know that you can count on our support.

Sincerely,



Henry Siegman
Executive Director



Robert K. Litton
President