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**INTERIM
WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

DATE OF LETTER: 10/15/99

NAME/ADDRESS OF CORRESPONDENT:

The Honorable Jesse Helms
U.S. Senate

SUBJECT:

Support the nomination of Dr. Michael Haltzel as the United States Ambassador to Norway

ROUTED TO:

LaStein - Org - 99/10/27

DATE: 10/27/99

Nash
10/15/99

COMMENTS:

1220/NC
sp 402381

ACTION CODES:

A ☒ Appropriate Action
C Comment/Recommendations
D Draft Response
F Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as enclosure
I Info. Copy Only /No Action Necessary
R Direct Reply w/Copy
S For Signature
X Interim Reply

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A ☒ Answered
C ☒ Completed
B Non-Special Referral
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1520
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-62



402387

October 15, 1999

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased that Dr. Michael Haltzel is being considered for the position of United States Ambassador to Norway.

Dr. Haltzel has served on the staff of the Foreign Relations Committee since 1994 and has provided substantial support to both Republican and Democratic Members of the Committee. For example, during Senate consideration of NATO enlargement, he worked assiduously to forge a bipartisan consensus in support of that foreign policy goal.

His academic background and expertise on United States - European relations and his first-hand knowledge of Scandinavia make him an ideal candidate for the position of Ambassador to Norway. Furthermore, he has a keen understanding of the issues at the forefront of our relationship with that important NATO ally.

As you know Mr. President, moving nominees through the Senate often becomes more difficult as we approach the conclusion of each session of Congress. I am prepared to support Dr. Haltzel as our Ambassador to Norway and will seek expeditious consideration by the Foreign Relations Committee if and when your nomination of him is received.

Sincerely,

JESSE HELMS

cc: Mr. Bob Nash, Director of Presidential Personnel

JESSE HELMS, NORTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

OCT 29 1999

October 4, 1999

Personal



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Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to strongly support the candidacy for Ambassador to Norway of my senior foreign policy aide Michael Haltzel, whom the European Affairs Bureau of the State Department has proposed for this position.

You have met Mike at several meetings in recent years dealing with NATO enlargement and the Yugoslav air campaign. On the night of final passage of the Senate's ratification of NATO enlargement last year, you may recall that I put him on the phone with you and said, "this is the guy who made it happen." And in fact for the previous year and a half, Mike had organized my lengthy fact-finding trip to Russia and Eastern Europe, planned our extensive series of committee hearings, and prepared for and was at my side as I floor-managed the final seven days of debate.

He has also been my point man on Balkan policy, particularly on Bosnia and Kosovo. Through his own academic training and frequent trips to the region, he has developed an intimate knowledge of the issues and relationships with most of the leading players. During the Kosovo conflict when I was in daily contact either with Sandy or with you, Mike provided much of the analysis and advice to me.

Mike's diverse international career has prepared him admirably for the ambassadorship to Norway. A Yale graduate with a Harvard Ph.D. in Russian and German history, he also studied in Berlin, Marburg, and Helsinki. After several years as a college professor, he returned to Berlin to become the first Deputy

Director of the Aspen Institute there. His subsequent posts have included Director of West European Studies of the Woodrow Wilson Center at the Smithsonian, and Chief of the European Division of the Library of Congress.

He knows Europe backwards and forwards, having written or edited ten books and dozens of scholarly and newspaper articles on various historical and contemporary topics. He has also had experience in managing large organizations, both at the Library of Congress and as a college vice-president. Formidably articulate, Mike is an excellent public speaker who lectures frequently to government and military officials. This is an urbane, multilingual American who interacts effortlessly with top-level Europeans.

Mike lived in Finland for a year while doing his Harvard doctoral research, and he continues to maintain close ties with Scandinavia. His NATO expertise would be particularly valuable in Norway, a charter member of the alliance that is not a member of the European Union, as the EU develops its European Security and Defense Identity.

In personal terms Mike is an engaging, affable person with a remarkable energy level. We have travelled together in Russia, Central Europe, to the Madrid NATO summit, and throughout Eastern Europe, including the Balkan hot spots; the pace we kept up reminded me of my 1988 presidential campaign. Along with keen policy judgment, Mike would bring physical vigor to the ambassadorship.

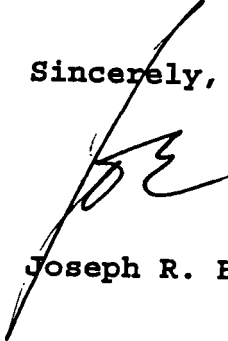
Mike is a family man with two married children. Helen, his wife of thirty-three years is director of a Department of Defense library. She is a charming, highly intelligent person who would be a distinct asset to the Oslo embassy.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not mention the political situation up here on the Hill. In spite of having written some of the most effective partisan rhetoric for my Senate floor statements, Mike has been able to develop a strong, cooperative relationship with the Republican staff of the Foreign Relations Committee, which has won him universal respect from the other side of the aisle.

While getting Committee action on any ambassadorial nominations in the coming months will be difficult, I am optimistic that Senator Helms and I could agree on expeditiously pushing through Mike's nomination.

I cannot think of anyone better qualified to represent the United States in Norway than Mike Haltzel. I recommend him in the strongest terms and would be happy to discuss his candidacy further with you or your staff.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

The President
The White House

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1999

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Biden:

Joe

On behalf of President Clinton, let me thank you for your recent letter recommending Michael Haltzel to the position of Ambassador to Norway. Our administration appreciates your help in identifying quality candidates.

You speak highly of Mr. Haltzel's qualifications and I have carefully noted your insights and support. I have shared your letter with Marsha Scott, my Deputy Director, and would like you to know that your comments will receive full consideration.

We welcome your suggestions in the future regarding appointments and look forward to working with you during the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,



Bob J. Nash
Assistant to the President and
Director of Presidential Personnel

BJN: Sys

cc: Marsha Scott