

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

GENERAL

C0146

April 6, 1971

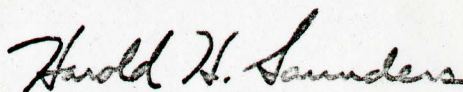
Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

I regret the delay in replying to your letter to
Dr. Kissinger on your concern for the Jewish
communities in Syria.

As the Senior Member of the National Security Council
Staff specializing in that area, I would like to assure
you that we remain keenly aware of the concerns which
have prompted you to write. We attempt to be helpful
as we can, but in the case of Syria, of course, this is
made even more difficult than usual by the fact that
we have no diplomatic presence there.

Your concerns will remain very much in our minds.

Yours sincerely,



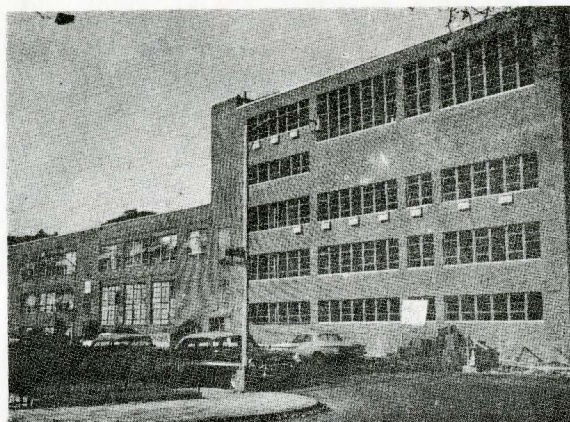
Harold H. Saunders

x
Rabbi S. M. Kalmanowitz
President
x Mirrer Yeshiva Central Institute
1791-5 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11223

Dispatched 4/6/71(ps)

MIRRER YESHIVA

BETH MEDRASH
POST GRADUATE SCHOOL
KOLEL



CENTRAL INSTITUTE

HIGH SCHOOL
SEPHARDIC DIVISION
TEACHERS INSTITUTE

GEN. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: 1791-5 OCEAN PARKWAY . BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11223

NI 5-0536-7

ב"ה מ'סודו של
מרן הגאון
ר' אברהם קלמנוביץ זצ"ל

RABBI SHRAGE MOSHE KALMANOWITZ
RABBI SHMUEL BERENBAUM
ROSHEI YESHIVA

February 4, 1971

Founded by
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ זצ"ל

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
National Security Council
White House
Washington, D. C.

RE: JEWS IN SYRIA

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

We are deeply concerned over the plight of the Jewish communities in Syria who are reliably reported to be in grave peril, living in an atmosphere of suspicion and hostility.

We appreciate your fruitful efforts to prevent further executions in Iraq, and to secure the release of Jewish victims from Egyptian detention.

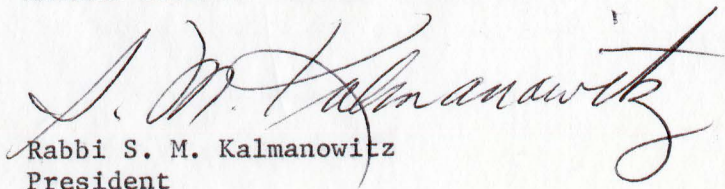
However, the situation of the Jews in Syria has been seriously deteriorating, contrary to the Syrian Government's assurances of August 1967 to the U. N. Secretary-General's Representative, Mr. Nils Gussing, on the treatment and freedom of movement of the Jewish minority.

We are appealing to you to rescue these oppressed and threatened people, and to facilitate their evacuation from Syria as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your kind attention, humanitarian concern, and active co-operation.

Sincerely yours,

MIRRER YESHIVA CENTRAL INSTITUTE


Rabbi S. M. Kalmanowitz
President

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

TO: PRES _____ FROM: ELIOT _____ U X LOG IN/OUT ONLY _____
KISSINGER X ROGERS, W _____ LOU _____ NO FORN _____ NODIS _____
HAIG _____ LAIRD, M _____ C _____ BUO _____ EXDIS _____
Kalmanowitz, Rabbi S. EYES ONLY _____ LIMDIS _____
TS _____ CODE WORD _____ RES DATA _____
SENSITIVE _____

SUBJECT: *Expressing concern for the Jewish communities in Syria.*

REFERENCE: S/S _____ OTHER _____ NOT XEROXED _____

APP'TS: PRES _____ HAK _____ TALKER _____ MEMCON _____ DATE REQ. _____

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

ACTION REQUIRED

ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG

ACTION

INFO

REC
CY
FOR

MEMO FOR HAK _____ (_____)

MEMO FOR PRES. _____ (_____)

REPLY FOR you SIGNATURE _____ (X)

FOR DISTRIBUTION/DISPATCH _____ (_____)

MEMO _____ TO _____ (_____)

RECOMMENDATIONS _____ (_____)

JOINT MEMO _____ (_____)

REFER TO STATE _____ (_____)

ANY ACTION NECESSARY _____ (_____)

CONCURRENCE _____ (_____)

DUE DATE: 04/6

COMMENTS: (Including Special Instructions)

STAFF SECRETARY

FAR EAST

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA

EUROPE/CANADA

LATIN AMERICA

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC

SCIENTIFIC

LR PLANNING

PROGRAM ANALYSIS

NSC PLANNING

CONGRESSIONAL

DATE

FROM

TO

S

ACTION REQUIRED

CY TO

4/6 Saunders NSC/S Saunders Sgd Ltr to Rabbi Kalmanowitz

CROSS REF WITH _____ NOTIFY _____ DATE _____

SEE LOG _____ DISPATCH: LETTER/MEMO done 4/6/71

JOINED BY LOG _____ COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE) _____

SPECIAL FILE RQMT: _____ SA, _____ HP, _____ HM

SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMENTS: _____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES _____ NO _____

MICROFILM DATA

DO X RT

INIT _____

DATE _____

08 APR 1971

ORIG) NSC _____

TO) PAF X

WHC _____

SUBF _____

GENERAL

BM3-2

00146

cc/

November 9, 1971

Dear Mr. Long:

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your November 2 letter to the President on behalf of Dr. Bernard Kaplan, President of the B'Nai Israel Synagogue, expressing concern over the status of Syrian Jews. You may be assured this information will be presented to the President and shared with those on the staff involved in a continuing review of foreign affairs.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

William F. Timmons
Assistant to the President

Honorable Speedy O. Long
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to Dr. Kissinger for DRAFT REPLY if appropriate.

WET:EF:VO:ki

9

NOV 12 1971

November 10, 1971

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for bringing to the President's attention the concern expressed by Dr. Bernard Kaplan regarding the status of Syrian Jews. You may be assured Dr. Kaplan's remarks will be brought to the President's attention and also shared with those involved in a continuing review of foreign affairs.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

William E. Timmons
Assistant to the President

Honorable Allen J. Ellender
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

bcc: w/incoming to Dr. Kissinger - FYI
bcc: Eugene Cowen - FYI

WET:EF:VO:vo

5

NOV 15 1971
CENTRAL FILES

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

NSC 4196

GENERAL

C0146

PM 3-2

TR38-4

To: NSC SECRETARIAT

Date: May 17, 1972

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:
☐ President's signature.
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.
☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

For Direct Reply.

Description:

~~XXX~~ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____

To: H.A. Kissinger
From: Percy Gourney
Date: May 7, 1972
Subject: Suggests that Pres raise the issue of Syrian Jewry while in Moscow.

By direction of the President:

Kathleen Stephenson
for Jeanne W. Davis

RECEIVED
MAY 19 1972
CENTRAL FILE

4, Poplar Court,
Richmond Road,
E. Twickenham. Middx
England,
7 May 1972

Dr. Henry Kissinger
National Security Adviser to the President,
The White House,
Washington.

Dear Dr. Kissinger,

I have much admired President Nixon's initiatives for peace, particularly in regard to his visit to Peking last February and his forthcoming visit to Moscow.

I am gratified to learn that the issue of Soviet Jewry is to be raised at this crucial summit meeting. I wonder if I may ask that that of Syrian Jewry also be raised.

There are today approximately 4,500 Jews in Syria subjected to inhuman treatment for some time, but lately events have rapidly and alarmingly deteriorated. Jews are not allowed to leave Syria even if they hold a foreign passport, and are restricted to ghettos in Damascus, subjected to arbitrary arrest and search, forbidden employment in government offices, deprived of their homes which are handed over to Palestinian Arabs, and severely discriminated against in many other ways. Eleven of them, including one of their leaders, Mr. Albert Abdullah Elias, are under arrest for trying to emigrate. An alarming picture is presented by evidence given before the International Committee for the Deliverance of Jews in the Middle East ~~held~~ on 22 November 1971 at the Hotel George V in Paris. This International Committee is headed by M. Alain Poher, President of the French Senate, and, in the United States, by General Lucius Clay.

One wonders if the Soviet Union can be persuaded to use its good offices with the Syrian Government to release Jews in gaol and permit the emigration abroad of Syrian Jews wishing to leave.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

P. S. Gorgey
P. S. Gorgey, M.B.E.

Hon. Chairman, Action Committee for
Arab Jewry (ACAJ).

WASHINGTON, D.C.
U.S.A.
THE WHITE HOUSE,
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER,
DR. HENRY KISSINGER,



BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER
PAR AVION AEROGRAMME

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD
NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE;
IF IT DOES IT MAY BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

Percy S. Gougey M.B.E.

4, Poplar Court,

Richmond Road,

E. Twickenham, Middx.

England.

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC	RECD	LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION OFF
MO DA	MO DA HR		
57	5/17/18	4196	

DOC SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: ELIOT _____ U _____ LOG IN/OUT ONLY _____
 KISSINGER _____ ✓ ROYERS, W _____ LOU _____ NO FORN _____ NODIS _____
 HAIG _____ LAIRD, M _____ C _____ EYES ONLY _____ LIMDIS _____
 S _____ CODE WORD _____ RES DATA _____
 TS _____ SENSITIVE _____

SUBJECT: *Goursey, Percy*
Suggests that Pres raise the issue of "Syria"
year while in Moscow

REFERENCE: S/S _____ OTHER _____ NOT XEROXED _____

APP'TS: PRES _____ HAK _____ TALKER _____ MEMCON _____ DATE REQ. _____

SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTION/ACTION

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

ACTION REQUIRED

	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG			
STAFF SECRETARY			
FAR EAST			
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA			
NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA			
EUROPE/CANADA			
LATIN AMERICA			
UNITED NATIONS			
ECONOMIC			
SCIENTIFIC			
LR PLANNING			
PROGRAM ANALYSIS			
NSC PLANNING			
CONGRESSIONAL			

MEMO FOR HAK _____ ()
 MEMO FOR PRES. _____ ()
 REPLY FOR _____ SIGNATURE _____ ()
 FOR DISTRIBUTION/DISPATCH _____ ()
 MEMO _____ TO _____ ()
 RECOMMENDATIONS _____ ()
 JOINT MEMO _____ ()
 REFER TO STATE *don't reply* _____ ()
 ANY ACTION NECESSARY _____ ()
 CONCURRENCE _____ ()
 DUE DATE: _____

COMMENTS: (Including Special Instructions)

INTERNAL/INTERIM ROUTING

DATE	FROM	TO	S	ACTION REQUIRED	CY TO

DISPOSITION

CROSS REF WITH _____ NOTIFY _____ DATE _____
 SEE LOG _____ DISPATCH: LETTER/MEMO _____
 JOINED BY LOG _____ COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE) _____
 SPECIAL FILE RQMT: _____ SA, _____ HP, _____ HM
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMENTS: _____
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES _____ NO _____

MICROFILM DATA	
DO <i>OK</i>	INIT _____
	DATE _____
ORIG) <i>NSC</i>	PAF _____
TO)	WHC _____
	SUBF _____

MAY 19 1972

GENERAL

PR/3/5132
C0146

The White House
Washington

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5 ICS IPMVSNA NYK

6
7 ZCZC 01026 PD NL MS NEW YORK N Y 19 EST

8 PMS PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON

9
10 THE WHITE HOUSE, CAPITAL HILL

11 WASHINGTON D. C.
12
13
14
15

16 DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

17 WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE PLIGHT OF OUR FAMILIES AND RELA-
18 TIVES IN SYRIA. WE URGE YOU NOT TO KEEP SILENT WHILE 4,000
19 HELPLESS VICTIMS LIVE UNDER CONSTANT TERROR AND ARE BEING HELD
20 AS HOSTAGES WE ARE APPEALING TO YOU TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE
21 BY CALLING ON PRESIDENT ASSAD DIRECTLY AND OFFICIALLY TO PERMIT
22 THEIR DEPARTURE.
23
24
25

26 VICTOR DJOUEJATI, ELI ZARIF, SAM SALMAN, AYASH SHACCALO,

1972 JUL 19 PM 7 23

SENT
STATE DEPARTMENT
JUL 20 1972
BY MEMO

BROUGHT FORWARD

GENERAL

C0146

Previously filed

8/9/72

Date

Name Hon. Charles H. Percy

Organization U.S.S.

GENERAL

C0146

New File Symbol

9/25/72

Date

FINAL ACTION Memo to NSC/S from Hal

Saunders

August 4, 1972

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your August 3 letter to the President with which you enclosed a copy of a letter from Mr. Abraham Dwek, President of the Committee for Rescue of Syrian Jewry. You may be assured that your letter and attachment will be brought to the President's early attention and also shared with the appropriate members of the staff.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Rick

Richard K. Cook
Deputy Assistant
to the President

Honorable Emanuel Celler
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc: w/incoming to Dr. Kissinger for appropriate handling.

RKC:VO:vo

6

RECEIVED
AUG 7 1972
CENTRAL FILES

~~SANDERS~~

Notes & Return

In file

NSC/S

7
EMANUEL CELLER
10TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MINNIE WHITE

8/14
NEW YORK OFFICE
1501 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

2136 RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

NEW YORK SECRETARY
MARY DOUGHERTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 3, 1972

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

Dear Mr. President:

You are, I am sure, thoroughly familiar with the plight of the Syrian Jews, discussed in the attached letter, addressed to me by Mr. Abraham Dwek, President of the Committee for Rescue of Syrian Jewry.

I call your attention to the fifth paragraph on the second page of Mr. Dwek's letter, and will be most grateful if you will send me your views.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Emanuel Celler

Emanuel Celler

Incl.



COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWRY

1750 EAST 4th STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11223

July 28, 1972

SHAARE ZION CONG.
BETH TORAH CONG.
AHI EZER CONG.
CONG. MAGEN DAVID
OF OCEAN PARKWAY
MAGEN DAVID CONG.
MAGEN DAVID CONG.
OF BRADLEY BEACH
AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.
AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.
OF OCEAN PARKWAY
SEPHARDIC INSTITUTE
BETH EL OF MYRTLE BEACH

The Honorable
Emanuel Celler
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Celler:

Our committee represents the Syrian Jewish congregations of the U.S. with a total membership of over 25,000 people who are deeply concerned about the plight of their families, relatives and friends in Damascus, Aleppo and Qamishli in Syria.

The 4,000 Jews in Syria are being subjected to various forms of harassment, discrimination, restriction, arbitrary arrest and torture.

Reports have reached us that after 10 months' imprisonment, 11 Jews have been released and that four others are still in jail.

They have committed no crime or any violation of the Syrian constitution. Their only crime is being Jewish, in view of the fact that Moslem and Christian Syrians are readily able to leave the country without applying for permits just by showing their identity cards at the border.

Even within Syria, Jews are forbidden to move beyond a radius of 3 miles of their place of residence without special permit. All their identity cards are marked in red ink on both sides with large letters "Jewish."

Jews are under close surveillance by the secret police and often interrogated and their homes are searched. In Aleppo, the Jewish community is subject to frequent curfews, while in the town of Qamishli, every Jew must report daily before an officer.

Letters written or received by Jews are always censored. Jews are not granted driving licenses, barred from employment in certain professions and government enterprises, denied bank credit or collection of debts and may not sell or dispose of their property.

The Syrian authorities have done nothing to curb vandalism of Jewish homes. Moslem principals in Jewish schools have curtailed religious studies. Jewish cemeteries have been confiscated. Jews are stoned in the streets, live in constant fear and are prevented from emigrating.

(cont.)

The Honorable Emanuel Celler

July 28, 1972

-2-

These discriminatory measures are in clear violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and contrary to the Syrian Government's 1967 assurances to U.N. representative Nils Gussing, on the treatment of freedom of movement of the Jewish minority.

The international community has a solemn duty to alleviate the plight of these unfortunate victims and to spare them additional sufferings.

In this connection, we wish to express our deep gratitude for the attention and steady cooperation that the Government has given us on this urgent humanitarian matter.

However, as you may know, the Syrian Government has rejected all diplomatic interventions by friendly governments and international organizations on behalf of the Jews in Syria, continues in its refusal to allow any Jews to leave the country, and has even denied requests for reunion with families in countries far removed from the Middle East area of conflict.

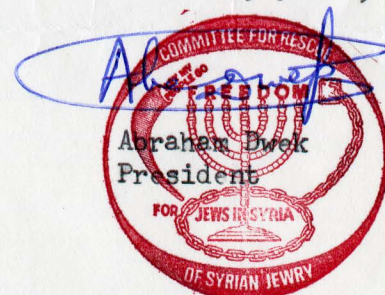
We therefore appeal to you if you can urge the President to issue a statement expressing U.S. concern and calling on the Syrian Government to release these helpless people, while making it clear that the United States would welcome these refugees and is prepared to use the parole authority for this purpose.

We hope that the Syrian authorities will soon realize that it is also in their interest -- for their reputation abroad -- to set free these innocent civilians, as other Arab governments have responded to world public opinion in the past.

President Nixon's appeal for Syrian Jewry's liberation, would certainly be highly acclaimed and appreciated by free people everywhere.

Please accept, Sir, our kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,





GENERAL

CD146
BM3-22
נ"ח

COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWRY

SENT
STATE DEPARTMENT

AUG 26 1972

BY MEMO

1750 EAST 4th STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11223

August 24, 1972

SHAARE ZION CONG.

BETH TORAH CONG.

AHI EZER CONG.

CONG. MAGEN DAVID
OF OCEAN PARKWAY

MAGEN DAVID CONG.

MAGEN DAVID CONG.
OF BRADLEY BEACH

AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.

AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.
OF OCEAN PARKWAY

SEPHARDIC INSTITUTE

BETH EL OF MYRTLE BEACH

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Nixon:

Our committee represents the Syrian Jewish congregations of the U.S. with a total membership of over 25,000 people who are deeply concerned about the plight of their families, relatives and friends in Damascus, Aleppo and Qamishli in Syria.

The 4,000 Jews in Syria are being subjected to various forms of harassment, discrimination, restriction, arbitrary arrest and torture.

Reports have reached us that after 10 months' imprisonment, 11 Jews have been released and that four others are still in jail.

They have committed no crime or any violation of the Syrian constitution. Their only crime is being Jewish, in view of the fact that Moslem and Christian Syrians are readily able to leave the country without applying for permits just by showing their identity cards at the border.

Even within Syria, Jews are forbidden to move beyond a radius of 3 miles of their place of residence without special permit. All their identity cards are marked in red ink on both sides with large letters "Jewish."

Jews are under close surveillance by the secret police and often interrogated and their homes are searched. In Aleppo, the Jewish community is subject to frequent curfews; while in the town of Qamishli, every Jew must report daily before an officer.

Letters written or received by Jews are always censored. Jews are not granted driving licenses, barred from employment in certain professions and government enterprises, denied bank credit or collection of debts and may not sell or dispose of their property.

The Syrian authorities have done nothing to curb vandalism of Jewish homes. Moslem principals in Jewish schools have curtailed religious studies. Jewish cemeteries have been confiscated. Jews are stoned in the streets, live in constant fear and are prevented from emigrating.

(cont.)

The Honorable
President Richard M. Nixon

August 24, 1972

-2-

These discriminatory measures are in clear violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and contrary to the Syrian Government's 1967 assurances to U.N. representative Nils Gussing, on the treatment of freedom of movement of the Jewish minority.

The international community has a solemn duty to alleviate the plight of these unfortunate victims and to spare them additional sufferings.

In this connection, we wish to express our deep gratitude for the attention and steady cooperation that the Government has given us on this urgent humanitarian matter.

However, as you may know, the Syrian Government has rejected all diplomatic interventions by friendly governments and international organizations on behalf of the Jews in Syria; continues in its refusal to allow any Jews to leave the country, and has even denied requests for reunion with families in countries far removed from the Middle East area of conflict.

We therefore appeal to you Mr. President, to issue a statement expressing U.S. concern and calling upon Syrian President Assad to release these helpless people; while making it clear that the United States would welcome these refugees and is prepared to use the parole authority for this purpose.

We hope that the Syrian authorities will soon realize that it is also in their interest -- for their reputation abroad -- to set free these innocent civilians, as other Arab governments have responded to world public opinion in the past.

Your Excellency's appeal for Syrian Jewry's liberation, would certainly be highly acclaimed and appreciated by free people everywhere.

We extend to you season's greetings for the Jewish New Year, and our best wishes for much success in all your endeavors. May the New Year herald an era of peace and tranquility throughout the world, under the great Nixon Administration.

Sincerely yours,



3
GENERAL

PL1-2

00158

00146

BM3-2

August 23, 1972

Dear Mr. Dwek:

In behalf of the President, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your August 21 telegram urging that the Republican platform include concern for the plight of Soviet and Syrian Jews.

We appreciate your interest in sharing your views with us in this regard.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

Richard K. Cook
Deputy Assistant
to the President

Mr. Abraham Dwek
President

X Committee for Rescue of Syrian Jewry
175 East 4th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11223

bcc: w/inc to Office of Dr. Kissinger - FYI

RKC:EF:g
5

RECEIVED
AUG 30 1972
CENTRAL FILES

GENERAL

00146

COHEN, SCOTT
PERCY, CHARLES H.
SEN

6114

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

September 28, 1972

TO NSC/S

No further action on the attached. Replies being given on Syrian Jewry letter in other channels, since same letter went to many USG officials. Also, Percy's assistant really requested no action and Timmons' reply can stand.

Hal
Hal Saunders

August 9, 1972

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for the August 7 letter on behalf of Mr. Abraham Dwek, President of the X Committee for Rescue of Syrian Jewry, who wishes to express to the President the concern of that organization over the treatment of Syrian Jews.

You may be assured Mr. Dwek's letter will be brought to the President's attention and also shared with the appropriate members of the staff.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Bill

William E. Timmons
Assistant to the President

Honorable Charles H. X Percy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Butt bcc: w/incoming to Dr. Kissinger for DRAFT REPLY.

WET:EF:VO:map
5

RECEIVED
AUG 10 1972
CENTRAL FILES

CHARLES H. PERCY
ILLINOIS

SCOTT COHEN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

AUG 8 1972

August 7, 1972

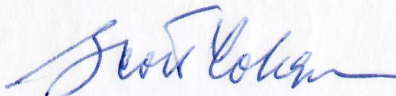
Mr. William E. Timmons
Assistant to the President for
Congressional Relations
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Timmons:

Senator Percy has received a letter from Mr. Abraham Dwek, President of the Committee for Rescue of Syrian Jewry in Brooklyn, New York, expressing his wish that President Nixon make an appeal in behalf of the beleaguered Jews of Syria.

A copy of Mr. Dwek's letter is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,



Scott Cohen

Enclosure



COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWRY

1750 EAST 4th STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11223

July 31, 1972

SHAARE ZION CONG.
BETH TORAH CONG.
AHI EZER CONG.
CONG. MAGEN DAVID
OF OCEAN PARKWAY
MAGEN DAVID CONG.
MAGEN DAVID CONG.
OF BRADLEY BEACH
AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.
AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.
OF OCEAN PARKWAY
SEPHARDIC INSTITUTE
BETH EL OF MYRTLE BEACH

The Honorable
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United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

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(cont.)

The Honorable Charles H. Percy

July 31, 1972

-2-

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However, as you may know, the Syrian Government has rejected all diplomatic interventions by friendly governments and international organizations on behalf of the Jews in Syria, continues in its refusal to allow any Jews to leave the country, and has even denied requests for reunion with families in countries far removed from the Middle East area of conflict.

We therefore appeal to you if you can urge the President to issue a statement expressing U.S. concern and calling on President Assad to release these helpless people, while making it clear that the United States would welcome these refugees and is prepared to use the parole authority for this purpose.

We hope that the Syrian authorities will soon realize that it is also in their interest -- for their reputation abroad to set free these innocent civilians, as other Arab governments have responded to world public opinion in the past.

President Nixon's appeal for Syrian Jewry's liberation, would certainly be highly acclaimed and appreciated by free people everywhere.

Please accept, Sir, our kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC	RECD	LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION OFF
MO DA	MO DA HR	6114	Sounders
8 9	8 11 10		

DOC SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: ELIOT _____ U ☒ LOG IN/OUT ONLY _____
 KISSINGER ☒ ROGERS, W _____ LOU _____ NO FORN _____ NODIS _____
 HAIG _____ LAIRD, M _____ C _____ BUO _____ EXDIS _____
 SUBJECT: *Ask Senator Percy re Abraham Dwek, president of Com for Rescue of Syrian Jewry* TIMMONS, W/ Percy, CHARLES H _____ EYES ONLY _____ LIMDIS _____
 REFERENCE: S/S _____ OTHER _____ NOT XEROXED _____
 APP'TS: PRES _____ HAK _____ TALKER _____ MEMCON _____ DATE REQ. _____

SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTION/ACTION

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			ACTION REQUIRED	
	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR	
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG				MEMO FOR HAK _____ ()
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES. _____ ()
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR _____ SIGNATURE _____ ()
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				FOR DISTRIBUTION/DISPATCH _____ ()
NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA	☒			MEMO <i>DAVIS</i> TO <i>TIMMONS</i> _____ (☒)
EUROPE/CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS _____ ()
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO _____ ()
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO STATE _____ ()
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY _____ ()
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE _____ ()
LR PLANNING				DUE DATE: <i>8/19</i> _____ ()
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				COMMENTS: (Including Special Instructions)
NSC PLANNING				
CONGRESSIONAL				

INTERNAL/INTERIM ROUTING

DATE	FROM	TO	S	ACTION REQUIRED	CY TO
				<i>See # 5490 for proposed 55 Language on Syrian Jewry</i>	
9/27	Sounders NSC/S			Close out per note the inside.	

DISPOSITION

CROSS REF WITH _____ NOTIFY _____ DATE _____
 SEE LOG _____ DISPATCH: LETTER MEMO _____
 JOINED BY LOG _____ COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE) _____
 SPECIAL FILE RQMT: _____ SA, _____ HR _____ PH _____
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMENTS: *Call Timmons office & Clean!*
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES _____, NO _____

MICROFILM DATA

DO *[Signature]*

OCT 3 1972

INIT _____

DATE _____

ORIG) _____

TO) _____

NSC _____

PAF _____

WHC ☒

SUBF _____

ms

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

October 19, 1972

5490
③
GENERAL

C0146

RM3-2

CO

Dear Mr. Dwek:

I regret our delay in acknowledging your letter to Dr. Kissinger this summer regarding the plight of the Syrian Jewish community. I have, however, been in close touch with the Department of State about your concern and have been aware of their correspondence with you on this situation. I believe you are fully aware from them of the kinds of efforts in which the US has been engaged. I know that they will keep in touch with you as the situation develops. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Harold H. Saunders

Harold H. Saunders
Member, Senior Staff

X
Mr. Abraham Dwek
President

X Committee for Rescue of Syrian Jewry
1750 East 4th Street
Brooklyn, New York, 11223

RECEIVED

OCT 24 1972
CENTRAL FILES

5490

7212931



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 10, 1972

Memorandum for: NSC Secretariat
The White House

Subject: Telegrams to the President Re
the Condition of Syrian Jews

The attached telegrams to the President were referred to the Department for reply. They both concern the condition of the Jewish community in Syria. A suggested reply for signature by a member of the White House staff is also attached.

The original correspondence is returned for your files.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. B. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Secretariat Staff

Attachments:

1. Suggested Reply
2. Telegrams to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

7212931

To: Executive Secretary
Department of State

Date: August 3, 1972

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:
____ President's signature.
____ Undersigned's signature.
- ____ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ____ Direct reply.
____ Furnish information copy.
- ____ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
____ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ____ For your information.
- ____ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

ASAP

Description:

____ Letter: 2 Telegram: Other:
To: President Richard M. Nixon
From: Joseph Guindi (plus 6 more names); & Morris Zafrani (plus 11 more names).
Date: July 19, 1972
Subject: Re plight of families & relatives in Syria

By direction of the President:

R. Booth
for JEANNE W. DAVIS

SUGGESTED REPLY

The President has asked me to reply to your telegram concerning the plight of the Jewish community in Syria. The United States Government has considered a number of courses of action that might alleviate the plight of Syrian Jews. The principal discrimination suffered by Syrian Jews today appears to lie in the fact that they are not permitted to emigrate.

We have consulted with and sought the advice of various parties, including a number of Jewish groups, on what actions we might take to help the Syrian Jewish community. There appears to be a division of opinion among these groups on how best to deal with this problem. Some of them, for example, have emphasized alerting public opinion to the condition of Syrian Jews and seeking statements by public officials and institutions condemning the Syrian Government's policies. A request that we appeal to the President of the Syrian Arab Republic directly would follow the lines of this approach.

An alternative to the above approach consists of using quiet diplomatic channels in tandem with efforts of other countries and organizations to get permission for Syrian Jews to emigrate. In this regard, we have consulted closely with the United Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS),

a worldwide organization that has as its primary objective helping oppressed Jews emigrate to the country of their choice. It is the opinion of HIAS, as well as of the Department of State, that the best way to proceed in the case of the Syrian Jews is through continued quiet efforts. This approach has also been agreed upon by the leaders of the New York City Syrian Jewish community. They have pointed out to us that whenever publicity about the Syrian Jewish community has built up, historically the effect has been the opposite of that desired: the Syrian Government takes a harder line. A direct appeal to the Syrian Government by the Government of the United States would almost certainly not result in the former government's permission for the Jewish community to emigrate and might well bring about the reimposition of arbitrary arrests and other harassments.

Nevertheless, the United States Government has undertaken a number of steps with regard to Syrian Jews in conjunction with other concerned governments and organizations, some of them represented in Damascus. In this connection, we have been in touch with high officials in the United Nations with regard to a UN expression of interest concerning the plight of the Syrian Jews and the desirability of permitting Jewish emigration. Additionally, in the

United Nations Human Rights Commission we have on a number of occasions expressed our concern over the situation of Jews in the Arab countries.

We have also made known to the Syrian Government our readiness to make immigrant visas available for Syrian Jews having relatives in the United States. While the Syrian Government has not responded positively to the United States, the initiative has not been finally rejected either.

In a general framework we have actively supported negotiations leading toward a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolution 242. Such a settlement would unquestionably benefit the remaining Jews in Syria.

I would note parenthetically that physical attacks on, and abusive threats against, the Syrian Mission to the United Nations by militant groups have not helped our efforts and may indeed have set them back.

Syria broke diplomatic relations with the United States in June, 1967, in the belief that the United States was collaborating too closely with Israel. Relations have not been resumed and we have no official personnel in Damascus. This situation has reduced our flexibility in trying to gather accurate information about the situation of Syrian Jews and has meant that we cannot deal directly with the Syrian Government. The result has been that we have had to

resort to patient and, at times, tedious third-party discussions with a government that is deeply suspicious of our intentions and a government which can hold hostage, in a sense, the object of our real concern, the Syrian Jewish community.

The Government of the United States is not only concerned about the Jewish community in Syria but continues to work to help them overcome the single greatest discriminatory practice against them: denial of the right to emigrate.



5490

ה"ב

COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWRY

1750 EAST 4th STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11223

July 5, 1972

The Honorable
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
National Security Council
Washington, D.C.

SHAARE ZION CONG.

BETH TORAH CONG.

AHI EZER CONG.

CONG. MAGEN DAVID
OF OCEAN PARKWAY

MAGEN DAVID CONG.

MAGEN DAVID CONG.
OF BRADLEY BEACH

AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.

AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.
OF OCEAN PARKWAY

SEPHARDIC INSTITUTE

BETH EL OF MYRTLE BEACH

Dear Sir:

Our committee represents the Syrian Jewish congregations of the U.S. with a total membership of over 25,000 people who are deeply concerned about the plight of their families, relatives and friends in Damascus, Aleppo and Qamishli in Syria.

The 4,000 Jews in Syria are being subjected to various forms of harassment, discrimination, restriction, arbitrary arrest and torture.

Reports have reached us that after 10 months imprisonment, 11 Jews have been released and that four others are still in jail.

They have committed no crime or any violation of the Syrian constitution. Their only crime is being Jewish, in view of the fact that Moslem and Christian Syrians are readily able to leave the country without applying for permits just by showing their identity cards at the border.

Even within Syria, Jews are forbidden to move beyond a radius of three miles of their place of residence without special permit. All their identity cards are marked in red ink on both sides with large letters "Jew".

Jews are under close surveillance by the secret police and often interrogated and their homes are searched. In Aleppo, the Jewish community is subject to frequent curfews, while in the town of Qamishli, every Jew must report daily before an officer.

Letters written or received by Jews are always censored. Jews are not granted driving licenses, barred from employment in certain professions and government enterprises, denied bank credit or collection of debts and may not sell or dispose of their property.

The Syrian authorities have done nothing to curb vandalism of Jewish homes. Moslem principals in Jewish schools have curtailed religious studies. Jewish cemeteries have been confiscated. Jews are stoned in the streets, live in constant fear and are prevented from emigrating.

(cont.)

The Honorable Dr. Henry A. Kissinger

July 5, 1972

-2-

These discriminatory measures are in clear violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and contrary to the Syrian Government's 1967 assurances to U.N. representative Nils Gussing, on the treatment of freedom of movement of the Jewish minority.

The international community has a solemn duty to alleviate the plight of these unfortunate victims and to spare them additional sufferings.

In this connection, we wish to express our deep gratitude for the attention and steady cooperation that the Government has given us on this urgent humanitarian matter.

However, as you may know, the Syrian Government has rejected all diplomatic interventions by friendly governments and international organizations on behalf of the Jews in Syria, continues in its refusal to allow any Jews to leave the country, and has even denied requests for reunion with families in countries far removed from the Middle East area of conflict.

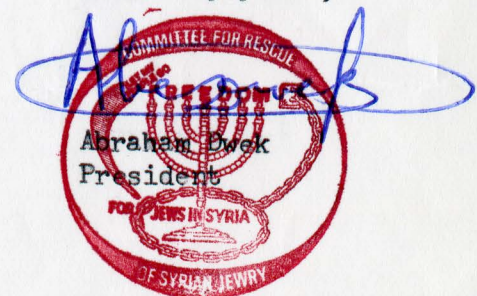
We therefore appeal to you if you can urge the President to issue a statement expressing U.S. concern and calling on the Syrian Government to release these helpless people, while making it clear that the United States would welcome these refugees and is prepared to use the parole authority for this purpose.

We hope that the Syrian authorities will soon realize that it is also in their interest -- for their reputation abroad -- to set free these innocent civilians, as other Arab governments have responded to world public opinion in the past.

President Nixon's appeal for Syrian Jewry's liberation, would certainly be highly acclaimed and appreciated by free people everywhere.

Please accept, Sir, our kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC RECD LOG NBR INITIAL ACTION OFF

MO DA MO DA HR

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7 19 9

5490

Saunders

TO: PRES _____
KISSINGER X
HAIG _____FROM: ELIOT _____
ROGERS, W _____
LAIRD, M _____
*Duck, Abraham*LOG IN/OUT ONLY _____
NO FORN _____ NODIS _____
LOU _____ BUO _____ EXDIS _____
C _____ EYES ONLY _____ LIMDIS _____
S _____ CODE WORD _____ RES DATA _____
TS _____ SENSITIVE _____SUBJECT: *Committee for Rescue of Syrian Jewry request Pres. appeal for Syrian Jewry's liberation i.e. US would welcome refugees.*

REFERENCE: S/S _____ OTHER _____ NOT XEROXED _____

APP'TS: PRES _____ HAK _____ TALKER _____ MEMCON _____ DATE REQ. _____

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION

ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/HAIG

STAFF SECRETARY

FAR EAST

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

NR EAST/NORTH AFRICA

EUROPE/CANADA

LATIN AMERICA

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC

SCIENTIFIC

LR PLANNING

PROGRAM ANALYSIS

NSC PLANNING

CONGRESSIONAL

ACTION

INFO

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ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK _____ ()

MEMO FOR PRES. _____ ()

REPLY FOR YOUR SIGNATURE X _____ ()

FOR DISTRIBUTION/DISPATCH _____ ()

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RECOMMENDATIONS _____ ()

JOINT MEMO _____ ()

REFER TO STATE _____ ()

ANY ACTION NECESSARY _____ ()

CONCURRENCE _____ ()

DUE DATE: 7/20 _____ ()

COMMENTS: (Including Special Instructions)

**Should State get on?*

DATE FROM TO S ACTION REQUIRED

CY TO

8/2				<i>State - Rcom + Draft Rep</i>	
8/3				<i>Rec'd Adm. TELEGRAMS</i>	
8/3		<i>State</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Dept Reply ASAP</i>	
8/11				<i>Rec'd State Rcom 55 7212531</i>	
8/11		<i>SAUNDERS</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Recommendations (8/15)</i>	
10/19	<i>Saunders</i>	<i>NSC/5</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Saunders sgl ltr to Duck</i>	

CROSS REF WITH _____ NOTIFY _____ DATE _____

SEE LOG _____ DISPATCH: LETTER/MEMO _____

JOINED BY LOG _____ COPIES: (AS MARKED ABOVE) _____

SPECIAL FILE RQMT: _____ SA, _____ HP, _____ HM

SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMENTS: _____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: YES _____ NO _____

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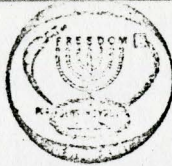
ORIG) NSC _____

TO) PAF _____

WHC ✓

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OCT 24 1972



GENERAL
PR13/ST32
CO146
RM3-2

OCT 31 1972

COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE OF SYRIAN JEWRY

1750 EAST 4th STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11223

October 17, 1972

SHAARE ZION CONG.
BETH TORAH CONG.
AHI EZER CONG.
CONG. MAGEN DAVID
OF OCEAN PARKWAY
MAGEN DAVID CONG.
MAGEN DAVID CONG.
OF BRADLEY BEACH
AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.
AHABA VE'AHVA CONG.
OF OCEAN PARKWAY
SEPHARDIC INSTITUTE
BETH EL OF MYRTLE BEACH

President Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Syrian Jewish community of the United States, as represented through the Rabbinical Council, feels a deep sense of anguish and anxiety over the fate of 4,500 Jews in Syria who are suffering harsh terms of living, restricted employment and forbidden emigration.

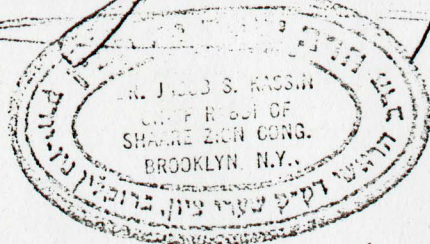
We appeal to you to use your good offices in the most appropriate fashion in making a personal appeal to the Syrian authorities to permit Syrian Jews who wish to emigrate to the United States to do so.

We would welcome a statement that our government, under the parole authority provisions, would grant visas to all Syrian Jews who wish to emigrate to the United States.

Please accept our kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Sam Madatou
Rabbi Jacob S. Kassir
Rabbi Abraham Shalom



Rabbi Joseph Horowitz
Rabbi Haim Ben-Zion
Rabbi Moshe Shalom