

January 18, 1973

GENERAL

PR13/FG106
C0158
ND18/001-7
H24
C0146

Dear Mr. Blumberg:

The President has asked me to express his thanks to you for transmitting the B'nai B'rith Board of Governors resolutions adopted in Washington last month. He appreciates your continued interest in keeping him so informed.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Deputy Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. David^x Blumberg
^xB'nai B'rith
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.
Washington, D. C. 20036

RLE:NSC:blh

14

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JAN 19 1973

CENTRAL FILES

PR 13-1

C0146

Rm 3-2

Im

B'NAI B'RITH

January 23, 1973

Dear Mr. Blumberg:

DAVID

On the President's behalf, I am replying to your recent letter concerning the plight of the Syrian Jewish community.

Under existing arrangements, virtually any Syrian Jew can gain access to this country. Syrian Jews reaching Lebanon or any of six other designated countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Greece) may apply for conditional entry as a refugee under Section 203 (a) (7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act under the seventh preference classification. Any Syrian Jew is eligible to seek refugee status under this provision of the law. Also, Syrian Jews who have relatives in the United States may opt to apply for immigrant visas on the basis of their family ties.

Parole authority, to which you allude, is normally thought of as one other measure that can be taken in urgent refugee situations when immigration opportunities under other provisions of our laws are insufficient. The situation in Syria, however, is not a question of the use of parole to cut through US visa procedures or to assist large numbers of essentially stateless persons. It is simply the fact that Syria has been unwilling to permit Syrian Jews to emigrate. The rationale appears that they believe such emigres, irrespective of their stated destination, would proceed to Israel.

On the basis of past experience with Syria and continuing consultations with concerned groups here working on this problem, we have felt that public pronouncements which would surround any invocation of parole authority would not result in a change in Syrian Government policy but, rather, might cause Syria to stiffen its stand against the emigration of Jews.

Given the current situation in Syria, the main thrust of our approach has been to press through quiet administrative approaches which might stand some chance of success. For instance, the US has made

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JAN 25 1973

CENTRAL FILES

known to the Syrian Government its willingness to make available immigrant visas for those Syrian Jews who have relatives in the US if the Syrians would let that group depart.

I assure you that our efforts will continue. Meanwhile, I hope this information will be of value to you in assuring you that our present arrangements make it possible for virtually any Syrian to gain access to this country under present law.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Deputy Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. David M. Blumberg
President
B'nai B'rith
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

RLE:NSC:KJ:RLE:vm1

✓

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 22, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: MICHAEL SMITH
FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS 
SUBJECT: Letter on Syrian Jews

The attached letter is for your signature. The draft reply is based on a legal position coordinated between the Departments of State and Justice.

Dear Mr. Blumberg:

On the President's behalf, I ~~have wanted to thank you for your~~ ^{am replying to} recent letter concerning the plight of the Syrian Jewish community, ~~and share~~ ^{to} with you an appreciation of our policy towards this situation.

Under existing arrangements, virtually any Syrian Jew can gain access to this country. Syrian Jews reaching Lebanon or any of six other designated countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy) may apply for conditional entry as a refugee under Section 203 (a) (7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act under the seventh preference classification. Any Syrian Jew is eligible to seek refugee status under this provision of the law. Also, Syrian Jews who have relatives in the United States may opt to apply for immigrant visas on the basis of their family ties. ~~In short, Syrian Jews are able to come here either in the status of refugees or on the basis of family relationships.~~

Parole authority, to which you allude, is normally thought of as one other measure that can be taken in urgent refugee situations when immigration opportunities under other provisions of our laws are insufficient. The situation in Syria, however, is not a question of the use of parole ~~procedure~~ to cut through US visa procedures or to assist large numbers of essentially stateless persons. It is simply the fact that Syria has been unwilling to permit Syrian Jews to emigrate. The rationale appears that they believe such emigres, irrespective of their stated destination, would proceed to Israel, ~~with which Syria is in a state of war.~~

On the basis of past experience with Syria and continuing consultations with concerned groups here working on this problem, we have ~~not~~ felt that public pronouncements which would surround any invocation of parole authority would ^{not} result in a change in Syrian Government policy ^{rather, counsel to Syria to} but might ~~well~~ stiffen its stand against the emigration of Jews. ~~Nor in appropriate circumstances do we rule it out.~~

Given the current situation in Syria, the main thrust of our approach has been to press ^{through} the quiet administrative approaches which might stand some chance of success. For instance, the US has made known to the Syrian Government its willingness to make available immigrant visas ^{who} for those Syrian Jews/have relatives in the US if the Syrians would let that group depart.

I assure you that our efforts will continue. Meanwhile, I hope this ^{information} ~~clarification~~ will be of value to you in assuring you that our present arrangements make it possible for virtually any Syrian to gain access to this country under present law.

^{the President's}
With best wishes,

Sincerely,



(Michael Smith)

Mr. David M. Blumberg
President
B'nai B'rith
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

RUE: NSC KJ



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 21, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Blumberg and Koch Letters re
Plight of Syrian Jews and U.S.
Policy

Mr. David Blumberg and Congressman Edward I. Koch have written about the situation of the Jewish community in Syria and about U.S. policy toward admittance of Syrian Jews to the United States. Attached are suggested replies which have been coordinated with the Department of Justice.

Richard W. Mueller
for Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Suggested replies.
2. Copy of original correspondence.

DRAFT REPLY

Mr. David Blumberg
B'nai B'rith
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Blumberg:

Thank you for your letter of November 3 to the President in which you requested that the United States provide a haven for Syrian Jews (through the invocation of the parole authority.)

*not mentioned
by Blumberg*

I would like to explain to you ~~what is~~ the United States Government policy toward the entry of Syrian Jews into this country. A Syrian Jew who reaches Lebanon or any of the six other designated countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy) may apply for conditional entry as a refugee under Section 203(a)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act under the seventh preference classification. Any Syrian Jew is eligible to seek refugee status under this provision of the law.

Furthermore, Syrian Jews who have relatives in the United States may opt to apply for immigrant visas on the basis of their family ties. Thus, Syrian Jews may enter the United States either in the status of refugees or on the basis of family relationships.

The parole authority is an additional measure which could be taken. It has been invoked in recent years to

help meet urgent refugee problems when immigration opportunities under other provisions of the U.S. Immigration Law were insufficient (e.g. for Hungarians in 1956, Chinese reaching Hong Kong in 1962, and certain Ugandan Asians). In the case of Soviet Jews, the parole authority has been useful only in behalf of those very few persons whose official exit permits, which are of limited duration, were about to expire before our immigrant visa processing could be completed.

The situation with Syrian Jews is different. Here it is not a question of the use of the parole procedure in order to cut through U. S. visa procedures or to assist a large number of essentially stateless persons. Rather, it is the matter of the Syrian Government's refusal to allow Syrian Jews to emigrate. In this regard, the rationale of the Syrian Government appears to be that Syrian Jews would, irrespective of their stated destination, in most instances proceed to Israel with which Syria is in a state of war. The public invocation of the parole authority by the United States might have a positive effect on the morale of the Syrian Jewish community, but ^{we do not feel} it would not result in a change in the policy of the Syrian Government. Indeed, a public U. S. announcement invoking the parole authority on behalf of Syrian Jews could very well prompt the Syrian Government to stiffen its stand against the emigration of Jews.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if at some future time the Syrian Government permits Syrian Jews to emigrate, and if at that time our visa procedures are not adequate to process the applications expeditiously, we would naturally be ready to consider utilization of the parole authority.

Again, let me assure you that the present arrangements make it possible for virtually any Syrian Jew to gain access to this country, under one of the two provisions of the law cited above.

Sincerely,

5752

8259

12/13/72

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FOR JEANNE DAVIS

I would much appreciate your sending the attached to State. Despite our informal requests, they are not talking to Justice on an issue which involves both departments and as a result the two are speaking with different voices *and we are getting caught in the middle.*

I will hold 5752 and 8259 for further action when State responds.

Hal
Hal Saunders

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

December 13, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary
Department of State

SUBJECT: Plight of Syrian Jewish Community and US Policy--
S/S 7218067 and Other Inquiries

We would appreciate State's working out with Justice a coordinated position on the issues raised in the letters at Tabs A and B and together drafting replies for those letters for staff signature here by the close of business Tuesday, December 19.

When one looks at State's recent suggested language prepared for the Blumberg letter (Tab A) and Mr. Kleindienst's letter (TabB), it is apparent that there are differences. Congressman Koch's letter at Tab B points out the confusion and we need to clear it up.

One way to state the issue is, first, whether it can be said in reply that "every" or "any" Syrian Jew who wants to come to the US can be admitted. Second, would it then be possible to state accurately and clearly what the invocation of parole authority would involve?

Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

7218067

8259

November 29, 1972

Memorandum for: NSC Secretariat
The White House

Subject: Blumberg Letter re Plight of
Syrian Jews

Mr. David M. Blumberg, President of B'nai B'rith, wrote to the President on November 3 about the situation of the Jewish community in Syria. We believe Mr. Blumberg's letter might appropriately be answered by a member of the White House staff. A suggested reply is attached.

The original correspondence is returned for your files.

J. Schenker
Secretariat Staff

*Revised
Dec. 21*

Attachments:

1. Suggested Reply
2. Mr. Blumberg's letter

DRAFT REPLY

Mr. David M. Blumberg
B'nai B'rith
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Blumberg:

The relief of Syrian Jewry has been an item of high priority since this Administration took office. As you know, Syria broke diplomatic relations with the United States in 1967. Relations have not been resumed, and we have no official personnel in Damascus. Despite the absence of relations, however, we have made known to the Syrian Government our readiness and desire to make immigrant visas available for all Syrian Jews having relatives in the United States. The Syrian Government has thus far not responded to this initiative.

Meanwhile, we have met regularly both here and in New York with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, among others, to exchange information and give advice on how best to assist Syrian Jews. As a result of these discussions, we understand that among Jewish organizations concerned with the problem of Jewish refugees there are serious reservations about our invoking the parole authority for Syrian Jews, the preference being for a quiet, administrative approach to the problem of emigration.

Underlying this view is the experience, particularly in the case of the Syrian Jews, that whenever undue publicity has built up about this community, the effect, historically has been the opposite of that desired. The problem is not whether the United States can accept Syrian Jews or provide a haven for them, but how to convince the Syrian Government to permit the Jews to emigrate. Of course, if at any point in the future a direct and public approach such as the invocation of the parole authority would bring positive results, we would not hesitate for a moment.

Thus, we will continue to work behind the scenes to alleviate the plight of Syrian Jews. In the coming months we will intensify our efforts to concern friendly third countries and international organizations with the plight of the Jewish community in Syria. The Department of State and the Department of Justice have been asked to follow this problem and they will work closely to inform us at any time if the use of the parole authority or a more public approach might be useful in alleviating the plight of Syrian Jews.

Sincerely,

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

7218067

REFERRAL

To: The Secretary of State

Date: November 13, 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 72 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:

Description:

☒ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____

To: The President

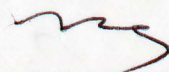
From: Mr. David M. Blumberg, 1640 Rhode Island Ave., NW., Washington, D.C.

Date: 11/3/72 (pm 11/9)

20036

Subject: Plight of Jews trapped in Syria. Request make provisions for providing haven for them.

By direction of the President:


Michael B. Smith
Staff Assistant

MBS:rh

(Copy to remain with correspondence)



DAVID M. BLUMBERG
President

B'NAI B'RITH 1640 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • (202) 393-5284

7218067

November 3, 1972

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

MS
The plight of the Jews trapped in Syria is in many ways more grievous than the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union. Their physical security is precarious and their civil rights, including the right to follow their profession or occupation, are drastically limited.

Many of us are proud and gratified that our Government has taken the humanitarian initiative of providing haven for Jews who can leave the Soviet Union. I would urge you now most earnestly to make similar provision for Syrian Jews. The announcement of such a step by the Department of Justice would do much to maintain the morale of Syrian Jews and to help persuade the Syrian Government to let these trapped and unfortunate people out of that country. We know that Syria has been claiming that its policy is designed to keep Jews from going to Israel.

We would be greatly obliged to have favorable word from you.

Sincerely,

David M. Blumberg
David M. Blumberg

NOV 14 1972

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC	RECD	LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION OFF
MO DA	MO DA HR	8259	Saunders
11 29	11 30 10		

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

SUBJECT: *Suggested reply to David M Blumberg's ltr to Pres re Jewish situation in Syria; Blumberg is Pres of B'nai B'rith*

REFERENCE: S/S 7218067 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

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 _____ ()

ANY ACTION NECESSARY _____ ()

CONCURRENCE _____ ()

DUE DATE: 12/20 X

COMMENTS: (Including Special Instructions)

Before send to Sm. H
X WITH 5752

DATE	FROM	TO	S	ACTION REQUIRED	CY TO
12/13/72	Saunders	Davis		Memo forwarding copies of 8259 and 5752 to State to coordinate with Justice in preparing draft replies. Recommend Davis dispatch memo to Eliot. Saunders retaining originals of 8259 and 5752 for further action when State responds.	

12/14		Eliot	D	Davis sgd pres to Eliot (12/11)	
12/14				Forwarded by 5752	
12/22				Recd State Recom. 7219895	
12/22	/S	Saunders	S	Memo, DAVIS to State (12/30) 1	

1/22/73 Saunders Davis Davis sgd pres to State
 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 2
 INIT _____
 DATE _____
 ORIG) NSC _____
 TO) PAF _____
 WHC X
 SUBF _____

JAN 23 1973

BS

GENERAL 3
CO 146
RM 3-2

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary of State

Date: February 15, 1973

NATL. WOMEN'S LEAGUE
of THE UNITED
Synagogues of America

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 72 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:

2 messages enclosed

Description:

☒ Letter: ☒ Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From: 1) Robert C. Dodds, Acting Director, Mass. Council of Churches, 14 Beacon St.

Date: Rm. 416, Boston, Mass., 2) Mrs. Henry Rapaport, Pres., NWLUSA, NY., NY.

Subject: Murder of Syrian Jews.

b

By direction of the President:

Michael B. Smith
Staff Assistant

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FEB 16 1973

CENTRAL FILES

KJ:blh

(White House File Copy)

The White House
Washington

1973 FEB 13 PM 1 28

1973 FEB 14 PM 3 58

WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM

WHA100(1324)(2-106836E044)PD 02/13/73 1324

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

ZCZC 2126281600 NL TDMT NEW YORK NY 118 02-13 0124P EST

PMS PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON, DLR

WHITE HOUSE DC

WE WERE SHOCKED AT REPORTS THAT 9 IRAQI JEWS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.

WE URGE YOU TO USE THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

AND OF THE RED CROSS TO CONFIRM OR DENY THESE REPORTS. WE URGE

YOU TO DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO AMELIORATE THE PLIGHT

OF THE JEWS WHO HAVE BEEN LANGUISHING IN PRISONS IN IRAQ IN

THE MOST HORRIBLE AND SHOCKING CONDITIONS. THE WORLD IS AGHAST

AT THE ATROSITIES THAT ARE ATTRIBUTED TO THE IRAQ GOVERNMENT

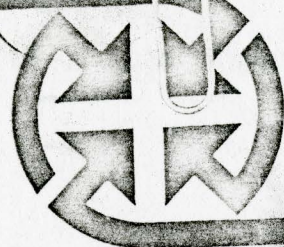
AND WE URGE THAT IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY YOU USE YOUR GOOD OFFICES

TO PERSUADE IRAQ TO HEED THE VOICE OF THE WORLD AND FREE ITS

JEWISH PRISONERS

MRS HENRY N RAPAPORT, PRESIDENT NATIONAL WOMENS LEAGUE OF

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUES OF AMERICA



MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

February 9, 1973

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

Mr. President:

We are horrified by renewed reports that Jewish communities in Iraq and Syria are subjected to murder, imprisonment, torture and other forms of inhuman harassment. If true - and all the evidence indicates these reports are true - we believe these acts are manifestations of genocidal and anti-semitism.

We urge the United States Government to protest these policies in the strongest possible terms, both directly to the governments of Syria and Iraq, and also before the United Nations, on the basis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At the very least, Jews in Syria and Iraq should be permitted to emigrate to Israel if they so desire.

We further urge the United States Government to consider appropriate sanctions if other forms of action fail to prevent the persecution of Jews.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Dodds

Robert C. Dodds
Acting Director

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

GENERAL

913-21
20146

To: Department of State
Attention: Thomas R. Pickering, Executive Secretary

Date: December 13, 1973

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.

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

REMARKS:

Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:

To: Leonard Garment
From: Abraham Dwek, President, Cmte. for Rescue of Syrian Jewry
Date: December 10, 1973
Subject: Jewish refugees from Syria- want exit permits from Lebanese Government

By direction of the President:

Leonard Garment
Counsel to the President

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CENTRAL FILES

(White House File Copy)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

GENERAL

Pr 13/ST 32
CO 146
Rm 3-7

To: The Secretary of State

Date: January 3, 1974

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 72 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:

Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:

To: The President
From: Mr. Abraham Dwek, 1750 East Fourth Street, Brooklyn, New York 11223
Date: December 21, 1973
Subject: Syrian Jewish refugees in Lebanon.

By direction of the President:

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant
to the President

RLE:JHH:PB:mah

RECEIVED
JAN 4 1974
GENERAL FILES

(White House File Copy)

GENERAL

PA 13/ST

C071

C0146

TO: THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
H.E. KURT WALDHEIM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE U.N.,
SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON

FORTY TWO ISRAELI P.O.W.'s HAVE BEEN BRUTALLY MURDERED BY THE SYRIANS. EVIDENCE OF THAT AND TO TORTURE AND OTHER MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. THE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES ARE ACTING IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION BY REFUSING TO RELEASE NAMES OF P.O.W.'s, PREVENTING INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TEAMS FROM VISITING EVEN THE WOUNDED AND CONTINUING TO MISTREAT THE P.O.W.'s WHILE REFUSING ANY P.O.W. EXCHANGE.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, URGENTLY CALL UPON YOU TO EMPLOY EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE TO BRING ABOUT SYRIAN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL ARTICLES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION IN REGARD TO PRISONERS OF WAR AND FACILITATE AN IMMEDIATE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

N A M E

A D D R E S S

1. Susan Friedman 6120 Elizabethan Dr.
2. Cheryl Boer 769 W. Meade Dr.
3. Bob Doh 6229 Pennywell
4. Ben Okarr 6129 Tockun Hollow Rd.
5. Debbie Grossman 6210 Hickory Valley Rd.
6. Danny Brown 201 Hillwood Blvd.
7. Allen G. Reiner 6535 Premier Drive A12
8. David C. Reiner 6535 Premier Drive A12
9. Judy Carter 6655 Clematis Dr.
10. Rhonda Halberman 723 Clematis Dr.
11. Anita Bienen 200 Carden Ave.
12. Betty Bonnard 6110 Dunham Springs
13. Avery Aldana 409 W. Tyne Dr.
14. Sherie Gordon 6032 Cargile Rd.
15. Judy Grossman 6210 Hickory Valley
16. Stanley Cassell 324 Sun Club Rd.
17. Jackie Roth 6002 Hickory Valley Rd.
18. Lisa Hirschberg 6524 Browder Dr.
19. Michael K. Ransom 833 Shalimar Park Ct.
20. ...

GENERAL

ND 18-3/01-7

0071

00146

March 11, 1974

Dear Dr. Johnson:

On behalf of the President, I wish to thank you for your letter of February 20, 1974. We are pleased, as I am sure you are, that the first point you made in your letter -- that the names of Israeli prisoners of war held by the Syrians be released -- was successfully resolved during the course of Secretary Kissinger's latest visit to the Middle East. Additionally, Red Cross visits to the prisoners have been initiated.

Let me assure you that the U. S. Government will continue to make every effort to bring about a full exchange of prisoners of war between Syria and Israel at the earliest possible moment.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant
to the President

Dr. Richard M. Johnson
Acting Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois 60680

RLE:State:NSC:JHH:RLE:vm1

RECEIVED

MAR 11 1974

March 15, 1974

PR13/FC106
ND18-3/CD1-7
CO146

Dear Mr. Traylor:

The President has asked me to thank you for your thoughtful letter forwarding for his attention the resolution of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Social Workers concerning Israeli prisoners-of-war held in Syria. Your interest in keeping the President informed of your thinking is very much appreciated.

I am sure you are aware that, as a result of Secretary Kissinger's most recent visit to the Mideast, Israel has received the names of its prisoners and Red Cross visits have begun. Every effort will be made to help bring about a prisoner exchange at the earliest possible date.

You may also know that plans for meetings in Washington with representatives of the Governments of Israel and Syria have been announced as part of the on-going efforts to promote progress on that front. Please be assured that for its part the United States will continue to promote a Middle East settlement, and your support for these efforts is gratifying.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Lorenzo H. Traylor
President
National Association of Social Workers
1425 H Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

RLE:NSC:JHH:RLE:vm1

MAR 13 1974

GENERAL FILES

GENERAL

PR13/5738

C071

C0176

April 5, 1974

Dear Mr. Loewenstein:

On behalf of the President, I want to thank you for your thoughtful letter and petitions regarding the situation of Israeli prisoners-of-war being held in Syria. Given our own recent experience with prisoners-of-war, the President fully appreciates your concerns in writing.

We are gratified that progress has been made. You are probably well aware that, as a result of Secretary Kissinger's last trip to the area, Syria has given Israel the names of the prisoners it holds and the Red Cross has visited them. We are mindful of the work that remains to be done to assure the speedy release of these prisoners, but I can assure you that every effort is being made to maintain momentum towards the broader goal of achieving a just and lasting peace, which will put these issues successfully behind us.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Benjamin S. Loewenstein
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
Fellowship Commission Building
260 South 15th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

RECEIVED

APR 6 1974

GENERAL

RLE: NSC: JHH: RLE: bjh
cc: Hal Saunders, NSC

BROUGHT FORWARD

GENERAL

C0146

4/5/74

Previously filed

Date

Name

Harold Greenberg

Organization

GENERAL

C0146

4/17/74

New File Symbol

Date

Final Action

Re for Rodger P.
Harmon to Harold
Greenberg

94
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20500

NOV 11 1973
confirmation copy
FILE
GENERAL
C0146

APR 17 1974

Mr. Harold Greenberg
Chairman, Middle East Committee
American Jewish Congress
Philadelphia Saving Fund Building
12 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Dear Mr. Greenberg:

I have been asked to reply to the letter you wrote to President Nixon concerning the situation of the Jewish community in Syria.

We share your deep concern over the situation of the Jewish community in Syria. We have, in the past, made repeated and vigorous efforts at high levels to help these people. For example, in 1971, the United States approached Syria with an offer to admit to this country Syrian Jews with relatives in the United States. Unfortunately, the Syrian Government did not accept this offer.

We believe that the most effective way to deal with this matter is through diplomatic channels. Past experience has shown that public statements or pressures are unlikely to alleviate the situation of the Jewish community in Syria and could make matters worse. It is our firm belief that a peaceful solution to the current Middle East crisis offers the Syrian Jewish community the best opportunity to live the kind of life, free from restrictions and intimidation, that the United States believes everyone is entitled to.

In addition to our diplomatic efforts, the United States has made provisions whereby any Syrian Jew who reaches any of seven designated countries may apply for conditional entry into the United States as a refugee under Section 203(a)7 of the Immigration and Nationality Act under the seventh preference classification. Therefore, Syrian Jews may enter the United States either in the status of refugees or on the basis of family relationships.

NEA/ARN:GDStrong:DAKorn:dav
22670 4/16/74

RECEIVED
APR 26 1974
CENTRAL FILES

- 2 -

Let me assure you that we will continue to do all in our power to be of assistance to the Jews in Syria.

Sincerely,

Rodger P. Davies
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Near Eastern and
South Asian Affairs

Bo

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

GENERAL

C0146

Rm3-2

To: The Secretary of State

Date: April 5, 1974

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 72 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:

Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:

To: The President

From: Harold Greenberg, Chairman, Middle East Committee, American Jewish Congress, Philadelphia Saving Fund Building,

Date: March 29, 1974

Subject: Twelve South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Asks President to turn his attention to the plight of Soviet Jews.

System

By direction of the President:

9

RLE:JHH:pb

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant
to the President

RECEIVED

APR 6 1974

CENTRAL FILES

(White House File Copy)

17
State

TWENTY-SECOND FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA SAVING FUND BUILDING
TWELVE SOUTH TWELFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107

March 29, 1974

JH

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

While our attention is focused, quite naturally, upon the Israeli-Syrian border situation, attention must be called to and something must be done about the extremely perilous fate of 4500 Syrian Jews.

As I understand it, emigration is prohibited, and Jewish life in Syria is brutally hard and restrictive. A couple of weeks ago, four young Jewish women were found murdered near the Lebanese border. These new murders recall the harassment, imprisonment, torture and murder which has characterized Syrian policy towards Jews in recent years.

The conditions imposed upon the Syrian Jews are reminiscent of the worst days of Nazi Europe. Restrictions include (among others):

1. Jews are forbidden to leave their own places of residence, and any travel outside a four-kilometer limit must be approved by special permission.
2. Jews must carry identity cards with the word "Jew" in large red letters, and there is a nightly 10 p.m. curfew.
3. No Jewish homes may have telephones installed; Jews cannot receive driving licenses; and they cannot be employed in government offices, public companies, banks, etc.
4. Strangers are forbidden to enter into Jewish areas, and any social or commercial contact is done at substantial risk.

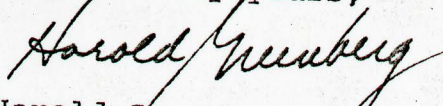
- 2 -

March 29, 1972

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon

I strongly urge that the United States, through direct diplomatic channels, as well as through the United Nations, make every effort to compel Syrian authorities to halt their renewed reign of terror, so that the 4500 Jews remaining within Syria's borders may yet be allowed to leave.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold Greenberg".

Harold Greenberg, Chairman
Middle East Committee
American Jewish Congress

HG:fl

GENERAL
ND18/C01-7
C01A6

May 3, 1974

Dear Mrs. Marvin:

The President has asked me to reply to your recent telegram concerning the terrorist raid on the Israeli town of Qiryat Shemona. You may be sure he deploras the loss of innocent lives wherever it occurs and is making every effort within his power to bring an end to such tragic incidents by working with the parties to create a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Though the goal of real peace will be difficult to reach, the President is committed to its achievement. I know you will join him in the fervent hope that our continuing efforts toward that end will meet with success.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant
to the President

Mrs. Eleanor Marvin
National President
National Council of Jewish Women
1 West 47th Street
New York, New York

RLE:STATE:JH:RLE:blh

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

GENERAL

CO 146

RM 3-2

REFERRAL

To: The Secretary of State

Date: June 14, 1974

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 72 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:

Description:

Letter: Telegram: Other: MAILGRAM

To: The President

From: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pearl, 27000 Cedar Road, Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Date: June 6, 1974

Subject: Writers urge Syria to allow Jews to emigrate.

By direction of the President:

RLE:JHH:pb

Roland L. Elliott
Special Assistant
to the President

RECEIVED

JUN 14 1974

CENTRAL FILES

(White House File Copy)

51
Mid East Trip
MGMWSHT HSA
1-036269A157 06/06/74
ICS IPMCLOB CLV
02292 MGM CLEVELAND OHIO 100 06-06
ZIP 20500

 **Mailgram**
western union



JH
► PRESIDENT RICHARD M NIXON
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHDC 20500

THE JEWISH MINORITY OF SYRIA IS SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT.
DOES NOT HAVE ELEMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTED TO OTHER SYRIANS.
WHEN YOU SPEAK TO SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, PLEASE URGE THEM ALLOW
JEWISH MINORITY TO EMIGRATE, THIS IS IN BEST INTEREST OF HUMANITY
AND MANKIND

MR AND MRS JACK PEARL 27000 CEDAR ROAD BEACHWOOD OHIO 44122
261-3000

17:27 EDT

MGMWSHT HSA