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## Unclassified (Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

From:

Co Cozi e 83/04/22 10-130503 A 83/04/19

s/s 8308028

Date April 21, 1983

Rabbi C. Shindler

130503

For: Mr. William P. Clark

National Security Council

President Reagan

The White House

Re	F	A	-	0	n	C	9	
ve	-	╚	-	=	44	_	=	

To:

	-				
	Date:	January 2, 1983	Subject:	Regarding	Zachary
	Baume	l being held prisoner	by Syria		
	WH Ref	erral Dated: March	18, 1983	NSC ID ‡	130503 (if any)
		The attached item woof State.	as sent dir	rectly to	
Action	n Taken	<u>:</u>	*	•	
		A draft reply is at	tached.		
•		A draft reply will	oe forwarde	ed.	
	-	A translation is at	tached.		
	X	An information copy	of a direc	ct reply i	s attached.
	<del></del>	We believe no respondited below.	nse is nece	essary for	the reason
		The Department of Sproposed travel.	tate has no	objection	on to the
		Other.			

Remarks:

Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

Unclassified (Classification)





Washington, D.C. 20520

Rabbi C. Shindler
11 - 21 Neilson Street
Far Rockaway, New York

April 19, 1983

11691

Dear Rabbi Shindler:

This is in response to you letter of January 2 to President Reagan concerning the welfare of Zachary Baumel, an Israeli soldier reportedly missing in action in Lebanon.

Almost from the beginning of the hostilities in Lebanon, the United States has taken an active interest in the issue of prisoners captured during the war. Of necessity, however, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been the principal organization involved in this problem, a role which it has traditionally played with the support of the international community. Our efforts have been in support of the ICRC, but we have also made direct interventions with appropriate governments on numerous occasions. While I cannot go into the nature of our diplomatic exchanges, I can assure you that we have been and will continue to take an active interest in this problem so long as prisoners captured in Lebanon are being detained or are unaccounted for. We are motivated in our activities both by humanitarian concern and the possibility that the POW/MIA issue, unless resolved, could become a stumbling block to a successful conclusion of the current Lebanese-Israeli negotiations and the prompt withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

With regard to Zachary Baumel, we and the ICRC have raised his case numerous times through diplomatic channels. To date, neither we nor the ICRC have confirmation from the Syrian Government or any other party that Zachary Baumel is being held. You may be assured, however, that we will continue our efforts on behalf of Mr. Baumel.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Homan Acting Director

Office of Public Affairs
Bureau of Near Eastern and
South Asian Affairs

#### THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

MARCH 18, 1983

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF ANNE HIGGINS

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID:

130503

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JANUARY 2, 1983

TO:

PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM:

RABBI C. SHINDLER

11 - 21 NEILSON STREET FAR ROCKAWAY NY 11691

SUBJECT: CONCERNED ABOUT U. S. CITIZEN, ZACHARY BAUMEL WHO IS BEING HELD PRISONER BY SYRIA AND THE P.L.O. - STATES ARABS ARE VIOLATING THE

GENEVA CONVENTION BY NOT PERMITTING RED CROSS

REPRESENTATIVES VISIT MR. BAUMEL

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

130503

January 2, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan President The White House

Dear Mr. President:

Zachary Baumel, a citizen of the United States who is registered for the draft under Selective Service, is being held prisoner by Syria and the P.L.O. . American citizen Zachary Baumel and the crew of his tank were publicly paraded in Damascus on June 11, 1982.

The Arabs are violating the Geneva Convention by not permitting Red Cross representatives to visit U.S. citizen Zachary Baumel and the other crew members. They refuse to acknowledge that they are holding these prisoners.

An integral part of any Israeli-Arab pact in Lebanon must be the return of American citizen Zachary Baumel and the others captured in Lebanon and displayed in Damascus with their tank on June 11, 1982.

Respectfully,

· Pable + mes. C Shindler

4

DO

179743 /220 <u>CO 153</u> <del>CO 001-</del>

### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 5, 1983

Dear Senator Hatch:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 28, 1983 elaborating on your concerns regarding U.S.-Syrian relations and the consequences for our Middle East diplomacy. I especially appreciate your suggesting 10 factors which Bud McFarlane might consider in the course of his mission. Before passing the suggestions on to Bud, I suggest that our staffs discuss these points and recommend that Geoffrey Kemp, Howard Teicher or Philip Dur of the NSC Staff be contacted for such a discussion.

With warm and personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bur

William P. Clark

The Honorable Orrin G.\*Hatch Vice-Chairman for Foreign Policy Senate Steering Committee Washington, D.C. 20510

NSC# 8306915

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

October 3, 1983

#### ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM:

HOWARD R. TEICHER HRT

SUBJECT:

Letter from the Senate Steering Committee

on the Middle East

Attached at Tab B is a letter from Orrin Hatch highlighting the conclusions of a recent trip in the Middle East. In brief, Hatch asserts that Bud's diplomacy is too narrowly focused on Lebanon, gives inadequate attention to regional developments, and criticizes our tough line toward Damascus. He concludes by listing 10 factors which he believes Bud should consider in his meetings with the Syrians. While I don't take issue with some of his observations, his suggestions (the 10 factors) for inducing more flexible dialogue with the Syrians are only likely to encourage Syrian aggressiveness, control over all of Lebanon and further exploitation of the Palestinian cause for Syrian purposes.

Hatch closes his letter by suggesting staff contact. A response for your signature is at Tab I commenting on Hatch's observations and inviting his staff to communicate with Geoff, Phil or me.

#### Recommendation

That	you	scan	the	Hatch	letter	at	Tab	B	and	sign	the	letter	to
Hatch	at	Tab	I.										

Disapprove \_\_\_\_

Phill Dur and Christ Annan concur

#### Attachments

Tab I Judge Clark letter to Senator Hatch
Tab A Senator Hatch letter to Judge Clark

September 28, 1983

REC: VE

The Honorable William ProClark National Security Adviser A Branch House Washington, D.C.

Dear Bill:

As you know from the classified cable sent by our Ambassador in Syria, Ed Zorinsky and I had a long meeting August 27 with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Khaddam and with the Speaker of the Syrian Parliament Zubi. We explored the same questions in Syria as we did in our meetings with President Mubarak in Cairo and King Hussein in Amman, namely how the Arab-Israeli peace process could be You have the classified cables from our embassies moved ahead. summarizing these meetings, but in light of the deteriorating situation in the past month we would like to amplify and underline some of the points from these discussions because we are concerned that Middle East regional issues be taken more specifically into account in our dialog with Syria about their withdrawal from Lebanon. Frankly, the main concern is that Bud McFarlane may be focusing too narrowly on the area and parties around Beirut rather than the broader strategic picture involving Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Egypt and, most importantly, the need to get the Arab-Israeli peace process moving again. We should not be conceptually bogged down in Beirut at risk of neglecting more important strategic factors.

Foreign Minister Khaddam seemed willing to "deal" in the way he responded to our repeated probes about the conditions under which Syria would withdraw from Lebanon. He emphasized that Syria does not want a fragmented Lebanon which would be a burden in that Syria already took in one million refugees in 1975. He listed four objections to the Israel-Lebanon agreement: prohibition of Lebanon from maintaining effective air defense, placing the Lebanese people's economy and security at the "mercy" of Israel, the requirement that Lebanon give up relations with states "in conflict" with Israel, and the Israeli security zone leaving the Israeli army only 23 kilometers from Damascus. In response to our probing, Khaddam agreed to a UNDOF-type buffer force on the Lebanese/Israeli border which, after some discussion, he agreed could even include NATO forces such as specifically Spain, Greece, Canada, Denmark and France.

It seemed to us that Khaddam went beyond his suggestion to Secretary Shultz in June that a neutral international force

The Honorable William P. Clark September 28, 1983 Page Two

should supervise Israeli and Syrian withdrawal, except the disarming of all Lebanese, and supervise a referendum. Overall it is hard to recognize the image of an intransigent Soviet puppet in the Syrian representatives with whom we met. Rather, the Syrians went out of their way to indicate their independence from Moscow. You may have heard the Syrian remark: when the Soviets complained about their independent action President Assad told the Soviets when he rushed forces to intimidate King Hussein in 1980, "You don't consult us about Poland; we don't consult you about Jordan." We hope our own actions in recent weeks will not drive the Syrians closer to the Soviets but instead continue the kind of dialog that the Israelis have shown it is possible to have with the pragmatic leadership in Damascus.

Based on our meetings with King Hussein, President Mubarak, other Arab leaders and other Senate staff reports, Bud McFarlane should take into account these ten factors in the dialog with Damascus: (1) the hostile relations with Baghdad that place Syria in Lebanon "between Iraq and a hard place," (2) Syrian desire for return of the Golan Heights which was left out of the September 1 plan, (3) Syrian desire to be the main spokesman of the Palestinian people by controlling Arafat and the PLO, (4) restoring the internal Lebanese balance of the National Pact of 1943, (5) dominating King Hussein with military superiority combined with efforts to weaken his ties with Iraq, (6) avoiding war with Israel without stronger guarantees from the Soviets than the 1980 Treaty with Moscow provides, (7) assuring that the vital water sources of the Orntes River which originate inside Lebanon and contribute so much to Syrian agricultural wealth be protected, (8) avoiding being driven further into the arms of the Soviets than at present, (9) being consulted on regional issues by the United States, even without participation in the Camp David process, and (10) blocking further Arab-Israeli peace process movement unless Syrian needs are taken into account by the United States.

Our staffs should be in contact about the prospects for a higher level and more flexible dialog with the Syrians than is presently occurring.

Warmest personal regards,

Orrin G. Hatch

Vice-Chairman for Foreign Policy

# National Security Council The White House

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Bud McFarlane			
Jacque Hill			
Judge Clark			
John Poindexter		/	
<b>Executive Secretary</b>			
NSC Secretariat		/	
Situation Room	/		
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	DISTRIBUTI		
cc: VP Meese	Baker Deaver	Other	
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# National Security Council The White House

System #

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SEQUENCE TO

HAS SEEN

DISPOSITION

**Executive Secretary** 

John Poindexter

Jacque Hill

**Bud McFarlane** 

Judge Clark

John Poindexter

**Executive Secretary** 

**NSC Secretariat** 

**Situation Room** 

I-Information

A-Action

R-Retain

**D-Dispatch** 

N-No further Action

DISTRIBUTION

CC:

Baker

Deaver Other

COMMENTS

Should be seen by:

(Date/Time)

ID: 187887 CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET PAGE D01

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE DATE 840110 RECEIVED DATE 840112

(PREFIX) (FIRST) (LAST) (SUFFIX)

THE HONORABLE STEPHEN J.

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STREET:

CITY: WASHINGTON

STATE: DC ZIP: 20515

COUNTRY:

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THAT ACTION BE TAKEN REGARDING THE

CONTINUING PLIGHT OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

IN SYRIA

AGY/OFF ACTION CODE LAOGLE ORG

TRACKING DATE

840112

T A 8407 19 CB

STAFF NAME: PRESIDENT REAGAN

MEDIA: L OPID: LW TYPE: IBA

COMMENTS:

CODES: REPORT

INDIV: 1230

USER:

Neutr Seerland R 840123 00 1 84-11-24

99 DOS R 84-01-24

NSC ID8400694

ID: 187887

CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

RECEIVED DATE 840112

(PREFIX)

(FIRST)

(LAST)

(SUFFIX)

PAGE D01

THE HONORABLE

STEPHEN J.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE DATE 840110

SOLARZ

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STREET:

CITY: WASHINGTON

COUNTRY:

SUBJECT:

REQUESTS THAT ACTION BE TAKEN REGARDING THE

IN SYRIA

CONTINUING PLIGHT OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

ORG

AGY/OFF LAOGLE

ACTION CODE

TRACKING DATE

840112

MEDIA: L OPID: LW TYPE: IBA

STAFF NAME: PRESIDENT REAGAN

COMMENTS:

CODES: REPORT INDIV: 1230

15 to Sourtanul R 840123 1 C 840/24

USER:

705 R 840/24

NSC ID 8400694 7

(Classification)

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

s/s <u>8402437</u>
Date FEB 17 1984
For: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane National Security Council The White House
Reference:
To: The President From: Stephen J. Solarz
Date: January 10, 1984 Subject: Situation of the Syrian
Jewish Community
WH Referral Dated: January 24, 1984 NSC ID# 8400694 (if any)
The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.
Action Taken:
A draft reply is attached.
A draft reply will be forwarded.
A translation is attached.
X An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
Other.
Remarks:

(Classification)

Margy Linda Charles Hill

Executive Secretary



### FEBRUARY 1 5 1984

Dear Mr. Solarz:

I am responding on behalf of President Reagan to your letter of January 10, 1984 regarding the situation of the Syrian Jewish community. I note that Assistant Secretary Murphy has recently written to you on this subject.

The President and the Administration share your outrage at the brutal and tragic murder of members of the Abadi family in Aleppo. This is an act that cannot but cause universal revulsion. We have conveyed our concern to the Syrian Government. We understand that Syrian authorities continue to investigate the case and are doing everything they can to apprehend the perpetrators. We have also been informed that the authorities have taken appropriate steps to provide security for those families which have received threats and for the Jewish community in Aleppo in general.

The United States Government has long insisted that emigration should be recognized as a universal human right. As you are aware, we have communicated this concern to the Syrian government with specific reference to the Jewish community in Syria.

Please be assured that the Administration and the Department of State are treating this issue with great concern and priority.

Sincerely,

W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable
Stephen J. Solarz,
House of Representatives.

ID 8400694

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

PAGE E01

REFERRAL

DATE: 24 JAN 84

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: SOLARZ, STEPHEN J

DATE: 10 JAN 84

KEYWORDS: SYRIA

CO

HUMAN RIGHTS

SUBJ. LTR TO PRES FM REP SOLARZ RE PLIGHT SYRIAN JEWS

REQUIRED ACTION. DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

DUEDATE:

COMMENTS

Dueto 30 FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Solarz:

Thank you for your January 10 letter to the President indicating your serious concern over the deaths of three Syrian Jews in Aleppo and urging the President to communicate this concern to President Assad.

Please know that your recommendations have been brought to the President's direct attention and your letter is being transmitted to the appropriate foreign policy advisers for thorough review and response. We appreciate your interest in writing and sharing with us your concerns.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

W. Dennis Thomas Deputy Assistant to the President

The Honorable Stephen J. Solarz House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

WDT/KRJ/tjr

cc: w/copy of inc to NSC Secretariat - for DIRECT response

#18 7889.

1536 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-2361

DISTRICT OFFICES: 28 CADMAN PLAZA WEST BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 (212) 330-7229

117 BRIGHTON BEACH AVENUE BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11235 (212) 965-5105

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

January 10, 1984

Hon. Ronald Reagan President of the United States The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

STEPHEN J. SOLARZ

13th DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN

AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

BUDGET

The successful negotiations for the release of Lieutenant Robert Goodman and the subsequent hopes for improved U.S.-Syrian relations must not be allowed to overshadow our concerns about the continuing plight of the Jewish community in Syria.

At the very time that the release of Lieutenant Goodman was being negotiated, three Syrian Jews -- a young mother and her two children -- were brutally murdered in Aleppo. Shortly thereafter, two Jewish families in Aleppo received phone calls threatening them with a similar fate.

This is not the first time that this small community has been the victim of violent attack. In 1974, for example, four Jewish women were raped and murdered in an attack that may have been sanctioned by the Syrian Government.

While all the facts surrounding the latest horrible crime are not yet known, this heinous act has underscored the ever present danger confronting the 4,500 Jews remaining in Syria. Clearly, as long as Syrian Jews are denied permission to emigrate, in violation of their internationally recognized right to do so, their lives and well-being will continue to remain at risk.

Because I believe that only the highest level contacts will persuade the Syrian Government to change its current policies towards the Syrian Jewish community, I urge you to personally communicate to President Assad as soon as possible not only your shock over the Aleppo murders, but your hope that he will undertake the following actions:

1. Make every effort to bring to justice those responsible for this hideous crime;

- 2. Provide adequate protection to the Syrian Jewish community to ensure that no additional attacks are carried out; and
- 3. Permit those members of the Syrian Jewish community who wish to emigrate to do so.

In the face of this latest outrage, I hope you'll agree with me that the U.S. Government must take every opportunity to make clear to the Syrian Government that its treatment of the Jewish community will be one of the key factors taken into account in formulating U.S. policy towards Syria.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

STEPHEN J. SOLARZ Member of Congress

TO

PRESIDENT

FROM SOLARZ, STEPHEN J DOCDATE 10 JAN 84

RECEIVED 24 JAN 84 14

THOMAS, W

19 JAN 84

KEYWORDS: SYRIA

CO

HUMAN RIGHTS

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM REP SOLARZ RE PLIGHT SYRIAN JEWS

ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY DUE: STATUS R FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

STATE

KEMP

RAYMOND

LEHMAN, C

THOMPSON

COMMENTS

( LB LB ) LOG NSCIFID REF# 187887

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO C 2/17 Read Cy Durct Reply

W/ATTCH FILE WH (C) DISPATCH

ID 8400694

TO PRESIDENT FROM SOLARZ, STEPHEN J DOCDATE 10 JAN 84

RECEIVED 24 JAN 84 14

THOMAS, W

19 JAN 84

KEYWORDS: SYRIA

CO

HUMAN RIGHTS

SUBJECT LTR TO PRES FM REP SOLARZ RE PLIGHT SYRIAN JEWS

ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY DUE:

STATUS R FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE FOR INFO

STATE

KEMP

RAYMOND

LEHMAN, C

THOMPSON

COMMENTS

REF# 187887

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ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

DISPATCH .

W/ATTCH FILE (C)

#### THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 196414

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 08, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. FRANCIS J. VALLE

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING THE PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWRY

	ACTION	DISPOSITION
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT DATE CODE YY/MM/I	
REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:  REFERRAL NOTE:		08 LK A 8402128 14 00 E 841021218
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS:	MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL	CODES:
PL MAIL USER CODES: (A)_	(B)	(c)
* * *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-AN *C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NO *D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-CO	OSITION CODES: *OUT * CO SWERED *TYP N-SPEC-REFERRAL * MPLETED *	**************************************

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS

MANAGEMENT.

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1984

Dear Mr. Valle:

Thank you for your letter to President Reagan of February 2 regarding the murder of members of the Abadi family in Aleppo, Syria, and the situation of the Syrian Jewish community.

The President shares your outrage at the brutal and tragic murder of members of the Abadi family in Aleppo. This is an act that cannot but cause universal revulsion. We have conveyed our deep concern to the Syrian Government. At the same time, we understand that Syrian authorities continue to investigate the case and are doing everything they can to apprehend the perpetrators. We have also been informed that the authorities have taken appropriate steps to provide security for those families which have received threats and for the Jewish community in Aleppo in general.

The United States government has long insisted that emigration should be recognized as a universal human right. We have communicated this concern to the Syrian government many times, including at the highest levels, with specific reference to the Jewish community in Syria. We will continue these efforts.

Please be assured that the President and the Administration are treating this issue with great concern and priority.

Sincerely,

Linas Kojelis <sup>(</sup> Associate Director

Office of Public Liaison

Mr. Francis J. Valle State President State Lodge of Maryland 410 West Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201 MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

1427

February 23, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR SALLY KELLEY

FROM:

ROBERT M. KIMMITT

SUBJECT:

Letter to President From Md. State Lodge

Re Plight of Syrian Jewry

We concur in the attached draft response to Mr. Valle, President of the Maryland State Lodge, concerning the plight of Syrian Jewry.

Attachment:
as stated w/incoming
correspondence

Dear Mr. Valle:

Thank you for your letter to President Reagan of February 2 regarding the murder of members of the Abadi family in Aleppo, Syria, and the situation of the Syrian Jewish community.

The President shares your outrage at the brutal and tragic murder of members of the Abadi family in Aleppo. This in an act that cannot but cause universal revulsion. We have conveyed our deep concern to the Syrian Government. At the same time, we understand that Syrian authorities continue to investigate the case and are doing everything they can to apprehend the perpetrators. We have also been informed that the authorities have taken appropriate steps to provide security for those families which have received threats and for the Jewish community in Aleppo in general.

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Please be assured that the President and the Administration are treating this issue with great concern and priority.

Sincerely,

LK

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## National Security Council The White House

	THE WHITE H	Juse	
84 F	EB 22 P4: 48	System #	11177
	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bill Martin	***************************************		
Bob Kimmitt		K	_
John Poindexter			-
Wilma Hall		-	
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	2		<u>D</u>
Situation Room			
I = Information A = A	ction R = Retain	D = Dispatch	N = No further Action
cc: VP Meese	Baker Deaver Ot	her	
COMMENTS	Should be s	een by:	
	2		(Date/Time)

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 22, 1984

FOR:

BOB KIMMITT

FROM:

GEOFF KEMP

SUBJECT:

Letter to President From Md. State Lodge

A Kimmitt to Kelley memo is attached for your signature concerning the plight of Syrian Jewry.

Attachment



(Classification)

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM



\$AS [8407572]: 24

Date 2/17/84

From. Mr. Francis J. Valle

For: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane National Security Council

The White House

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

Refe	re	nc	e:	
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.0.	
Date:	February 2, 1984 Subject: Writes Concerning The Flight
of S	yrian Jewry
WH Ref	erral Dated: February 14, 1984 NSC ID# 196414
	(if any)
	The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.
Action Tak	en:
	A draft reply is attached.
	A draft reply will be forwarded.
	A translation is attached.
	An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
	We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
	The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
	Other.
Remarks:	

ASSIFIED

Charles Hill Executive Secretary

(Classification)

#### THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

#### REFERRAL

FEBRUARY 14, 1984

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID:

196414

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 2, 1984

TO:

PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM:

MR. FRANCIS J. VALLE

STATE PRESIDENT

STATE LODGE OF MARYLAND ORDER SONS OF ITALY 410 WEST FAYETTE STREET

BALTIMORE MD 21201

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING THE PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWRY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

> > 2/14 ac 10:39 Am

#196414 STATE LODGE OF MARYLAND 410 W. FAYETTE STREET BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201 FRANCIS J. VALLE State President **LUCY J. THOMAS** ROSE MARIE VENERE State First Vice President State Recording Secretary MICHAEL AMATO LOUIS MORICI State Second Vice President State Financial Secretary TONY TRIPODI ANN SPANGLO State Third Vice President State Treasurer DOMINICK P. DE LUCIA JOSEPH MANCUSO State Orator State Executive Director 837-6500 S. JOSEPH AVARA Ex-State President Second National Vice President February 2, 1984 Ronald Reagan, The President The White House The Plight of Syrian Jewry Washington, D. C. Re: My Dear Mr. President: The State Lodge of Maryland, Order Sons of Italy in America in response to the appeal of the American Jewish Committee in Philadelphia respectfully requests that you use your good offices to have investigated and bring to justice the murderers of a pregnant Jewish mother and her two small children in Aleppo, Syria. (See attached letter) We further urge that through your good offices, you do everything in your power to convince President Hafez Assad of Syria to permit those Syrian Jews who wish to emigrate the basic human right to leave freely and join their families abroad. Our National Chairman of the Commission for Social Justice, Judge Frank J. Montemuro, Jr. has stated that "to stand idly by and do nothing at this time would be morally indefensible." Respectfully submitted, Francis J. Valle State President FJV:rl Enclosure



## The American Jewish Committee

Philadelphia Chapter • 1411 Walnut St., Suite 1004 • Philadelphia, Pa. 19102 • (215) 564-2460

January 20, 1984

The Honorable Frank J. Montemuro 2084 Old Federal Court House 9th and Chestnut Streets Phila., PA 19107

1/23/84

#### Dear Frank:

I would like to ask your help in an appeal for support and action in response to a particularly brutal atrocity committed against the Syrian Jewish community, the recent brutal murder and mutilation of a pregnant Jewish mother and her two small children in Aleppo. (See attached news clipping).

While repugnant as the facts of this crime may be, it is imperative that you know the details of this despicable act. On December 28, Chaim Victor Abadi, a prominent jeweler and merchant, received an obscene phone call at his office in which the anonymous caller described the unspeakable acts he had perpetrated against his beautiful wife. Mr. Abadi at first dismissed the call as a vulgar prank, but he was horrified on returning home to find that Lillian, his young wife, had been shot and repeatedly stabbed, her breasts cut, her stomach slit open, the fetus killed and her body mutilated. Beside her lay the bodies of their two children, Joseph, seven, and Sandy, four. The little boy's arms had been broken and the girl's body was cut to pieces.

While all Syrians feel vulnerable because of the internal strife and external problems facing the country, the 4,500 Jews in Syria are in a uniquely precarious position. They are the only group that is totally forbidden to emigrate. Although religion is no longer listed on the identity cards for Moslem and Christian Syrians, the identity cards of Jews are stamped "Musawi" (followers of Moses).

The tragedy of the Abadi family would have been averted had the Syrians permitted family reunion. Lillian Antebi Abadi's parents and her brother are currently residing in the United States. She and her husband were permitted to visit them last year, but with exquisite cruelty, the Syrian authorities forced the couple to leave their three year old daughter with relatives in Aleppo to assure that the family would return to Syria.

con'd. . .

GEORGE M ROSS, Chairman of Board .

■ RICHARD L BERKMAN, President of Chapter

HONDIARY VICE Presidents JACK F ADLER, PHILIP I BERMAN WILLIAM S FISHMAN • VICE Presidents ALAN D BLEZNAK RICHARD L FRFUNDLICH, RUTH SEPTEE, SUSAN O WEINBERG • JACK FARBER, Treusurer • MYRNA BRIND, Secretary • HARVEY S KRONFELD Financial Secretary • BERNICE ROSENBLUTH, Recording Secretary • HONDIARY BOARD MENDERS SYLVAN W DRUCKER, LEWIS J LAVENTHOL, "FRED L ROSENBLOOM • Past Chairmen and Presidents HONDRABLE CHARLES KLEIN, "ABRAM S BERG, JR., "BERNAHD L FRANKEL, EDWARD H CUSHMAN, "MAURICE SPECTOR, DR PAUL S FRIEDMAN, BENJAMIN S LOEWENSTEIN, ROBERT T CUTLER, HONDRABLE ARLIN M ADAMS, EMILY W SUNSTEIN, ROBERT K GREENFIELD, CHARLES KAHN, JR., EDWARD H, ROSEN, SOLOMUN FISHER, RICHARD J FOX, PAUL S. WEINBERG, JULES I. WHITMAN, ROBERT A FOX • DR. MURRAY FRIEDMAN, Middle Atlantic Regional Director • ROCHELLE B GREENSPUN, Assistant Director • MYRNA ASHER, Assistant Area Director •

We ask you to join in an appeal to Premier Assad of Syria to press him to investigate and punish the murderers of the Abadi family. It would, in addition, urge that Syrian Jewry be permitted the basic human right to emigrate freely and join their families abroad.

It is our plan to release the enclosed letter to the press, U. S. State Department, and key political leaders in the hope of focusing attention on the plight of this hostage community.

Upon receipt of this letter, would you call me immediately to indicate if we may sign your name to the attached appeal and how you wish to be identified.

Cordially,

Murray Friedman Regional Director

MF:r

enclosures

#### THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 197143

00153

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 27, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. NICHOLAS A. CIPRIANI

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING THE PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWS, URGES AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ABADI INCIDENT

	ACT	ACTION		SPOSITION
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)				C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LINAS KOJELIS REFERRAL NOTE: REFERRAL NOTE: REFERRAL NOTE: REFERRAL NOTE: REFERRAL NOTE: COMMENTS:		34/02/27 _/_/_ _/_/_ _/_/_		A84104 29
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MED PL MAIL USER CODES: (A)				
****************************  *ACTION CODES:  * DISPOSITION  *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED  *C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-  *D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED  *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED  *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*  *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *  *S-FOR-SIGNATURE *  *X-INTERIM REPLY *	CODES:	*OUTGO] * CORRE *TYPE F *	ING ESPONDEN RESP=INI OF CODE = F	* NCE * ITIALS * SIGNER *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0E0B) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 29, 1984

Dear Mr. Cipriani:

Thank you for your letter to President Reagan of February 2 regarding the murder of members of the Abadi family in Aleppo, Syria, and the situation of the Syrian Jewish community.

The President shares your outrage at the brutal and tragic murder of members of the Abadi family in Aleppo. This is an act that cannot but cause universal revulsion. We have conveyed our deep concern to the Syrian Government. At the same time, we understand that Syrian authorities continue to investigate the case and are doing everything they can to apprehend the perpetrators. We have also been informed that the authorities have taken appropriate steps to provide security for those families which have received threats and for the Jewish community in Aleppo in general.

The United States government has long insisted that emigration should be recognized as a universal human right. We have communicated this concern to the Syrian government many times, including at the highest levels, with specific reference to the Jewish community in Syria. We will continue these efforts.

Please be assured that the President and the Administration are treating this issue with great concern and priority.

Sincerely,

Linas Kojelis

Associate Director

Office of Public Liaison

Mr. Nicholas A. Cipriani State President Order Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania 1520 Locust Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

#197143 Lines Kojelis Order Lons of Italy in America Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania 1520 Locust Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 Nicholas A. Cipriani State President February 23, 1984 The Honorable Ronald Reagan President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500 Dear Mr. President: We deplore and condemn the brutal murder and mutilation of a pregnant Jewish mother and her two small children in Aleppo, Syria, which occurred recently. They were the family of Victor Abadi, a prominent jeweler merchant in Aleppo. There are 5,000 Jews living in Syria, and their situation is precarious. They are the only ethnic group in Syria totally forbidden to emigrate. The tragedy of the Abadi family could have been averted had the Syrians permitted family reunion abroad. We urge you to use your good office to bring about an investigation of the Abadi incident and to bring to justice the murderers of the Abadi family. Further, we ask you and the members of congress to do everything in your power to convince President Hafez Assad of Syria to permit those Syrian Jews, who wish to emigrate, to leave freely to join their families abroad. This is a basic human right. We thank you for your cooperation. Sincerely, Nícholas A. Cipriani State President NAC/jp

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

218258 4400 00153 1757 PG038 NU013-60 FC006-12

March 7, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD P. GREGG

FROM:

ROBERT M. KIMMITT BU

SUBJECT:

Plight of Syrian Jews

We concur in the attached State draft reply to Francis J. Valle, President, State Lodge of Maryland, in response to his letter to Vice President Bush, concerning the plight of Syrian Jews.

Attachment: as stated w/incoming

N3C ID 8401757

	National Security The White Ho	use	1033 hul
¥ 7		System #	I
	RECEIV	ED Package	# 1757
		7	
	84 MAR 6 P SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bill Martin		-	
Bob Kimmitt		K	
John Poindexter		-	
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat			
Situation Room			
Tom Shull			
I = Information A =	Action R = Retain	D = Dispatch	N = No further Action

(Date/Time)

Dear Mr. Valle:

Thank you for your letter of February 2 regarding the tragic and brutal murder of members of the Abadi family in Aleppo, Syria, and the situation of the Syrian Jewish community.

Events such as this murder and mutilation of a young mother and her two small children are an outrage and an affront to us all, regardless of where it occurs. We have informed the Syrian government of our abhorrence of this act and our concern that all means be taken to apprehend the perpetrators. We understand that the Syrian government is treating this crime very seriously, and that it continues its investigation. We also have been assured that the Syrian authorities have provided appropriate police protection to two other Jewish families in Aleppo who subsequently received threatening phone calls, and have enhanced security for the Jewish community there in general.

The United States has consistently supported the right of emigration as an inherent human right. We have specifically discussed this on many occasions and at many levels with the Syrian government regarding the Jewish community, and will continue to do so.

Mr. Francis J. Valle,
State President,
Order of Sons of Italy in America,
410 W. Fayette Street,
Baltimore, Maryland

Please accept my personal assurances that this

Administration is deeply concerned about both the Aleppo murder and the broader question of the right of emigration for the Syrian Jewish community.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

George Bush

Drafted: NEA/ARN:BEhrnman 2/29/84 632-4714 Clearances: NEA:RHPelletreau NEA/ARN:AEJones

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 6, 1984

SIGNED

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

FROM:

GEOFFREY KEMP

SUBJECT:

Letter to the YP Concerning Plight of Syrian Jews

Attached for your initials is a memo to Don Gregg transmitting a State drafted response concerning the plight of Syrian Jews.

APPROVE	K	DISAPPROVE	

Attachments: as stated

ID 8401757

RECEIVED 02 MAR 84 09

TO

VICE PRESIDENT FROM VALLE, FRANCIS J DOCDATE 02 FEB 84

KEYWORDS SYRIA

MP

HUMAN RIGHTS

SUBJECT LTR TO VP FM STATE LODGE MD RE PLIGHT SYRIAN JEWS

ACTION: MEMO KIMMITT TO DON GREGG DUE: 08 MAR 84 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

KEMP

RAYMOND

COMMENTS IDENTICAL LTR WAS SENT TO THE PRESIDENT ALSO, SEE YOUR 1427. THANKS L.

REF#

LOG 840 1427 NSCIFID

( LB )

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

COPIES TO

W/ATTCH



## cimin Description

(Classification)

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

1757 CK:1427

S/S 8404359

Date March 1, 1984

For: Mr. Donald P. Gregg

Office of the Vice President

The White House

2	
Reference	
To: V	ice President Bush From: Francis J. Valle
Date:	February 2, 1984 Subject: Murder in Syria
WH Res	ferral Dated: February 8, 1984 NSC ID# (if any)
	The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.
Action Tak	cen:
xx	A draft reply is attached.
1	A draft reply will be forwarded.
	A translation is attached.
	An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
	We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
	The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
	Other.

Remarks:

Charles Hill Executive Secretary

(Classification)

#### OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

#### REFERRAL

To: DIRECTOR, SECRETARIAT STAFF Date: 8 February 1984

(S/S-S)

Department of State, Room 7241

Washington, D. C. 20520

AOT	IACL	REO	1150	
/A	16 101	H - 1		

	Draft reply for:		
	Undersigned's signature.		
-	Ondersigned's signature.	NOTE	
	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.	Prompt action is essential.  If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately.  395-4223 Natalie Wozniak  Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.	
	For comment.		
REMARKS:			
Description:		·	
XX	Letter: Telegram; Other:		
To:	The Vice President		
From:			
Date:	Date: 2 February 1984		
Subject:	Murder in Syria		

By direction of the Vice President

ABBOTT Staff Assistant

## STATE LODGE

410 W. FAYETTE STREET

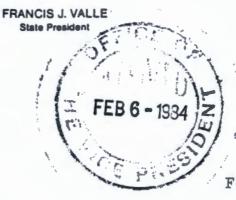


## OF MARYLAND

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

LUCY J. THOMAS
State First Vice President
MICHAEL AMATO
State Second Vice President
TONY TRIPODI
State Third Vice President
DOMINICK P. DE LUCIA
State Orator
S. JOSEPH AVARA
Ex-State President

Second National Vice President



Re:

ROSE MARIE VENERE
State Recording Secretary
LOUIS MORICI
State Financial Secretary
ANN SPANGLO
State Treasurer
JOSEPH MANCUSO
State Executive Director
837-6500

February 2, 1984

The Plight of Syrian Jewry

The Honorable George Bush Vice President of the United States The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vice President:

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We further urge that through your good offices, you do everything in your power to convince President Hafez Assad of Syria to permit those Syrian Jews who wish to emigrate the basic human right to leave freely and join their families abroad.

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Respectfully submitted,

Francis J. Valle State President

FJV:rl

Enclosure

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con'd. . .

GEORGE M ROSS, Chairman of Board .

RICHARD L BERKMAN, President of Chapter

MOTORITY VICE PRESIDENT JACK F. ADLER PHILIP I BERMAN WILLIAM S. FISHMAN • VICE PRESIDENTS ALAN D. BLEZNAK, RICHARD L. FREUNDLICH RUTH SEPTEE, SUSAN D. WEINBERG • JACK FARBER, Treuburgt • MYRNA 6HIND Secretary • HARVEY S. KRUNFELD FININGIA DECRETARY • BERNALD III Recording Secretary • HORDINARY BOARD MOTORITY SECRETARY • HORDINARY BOARD MOTORITY SECRETARY • HORDINARY SEVENDED IN THE ROBERT LOUISER, HUNDRABLE CHARLES REEN TABBAM S. BERG UN. THE RANDEL FHANKEL EDWARD H. CUSHMAN, "MAIDHIT! SPECTOR DR. PAUL S. FRIEDMAN, BENJAMIN'S LOEWENSTEIN ROBERT LOUISER, HUNDRABLE ARICH M. AGAMS EMILY W. SUNSTEIN RUBERT K. GREENFIELD CHARLES KAHN, UR. EDWARD H. ROSEN SULOMUN FISHER RICHARD J. FOX, PAUL S. WEINBERG, JULES I WHITMAN HUBERT A. FOX. • DR. MURRAY FRIEDMAN, Modie Altantic Regional Director • ROCHELLE B. GREENSPUN, Assistant Director • MYRNA ASH: R. Assistant Area Onector •

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Murray Friedman Regional Director

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