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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Zero

Wagshaw-

Topics - wide open -  
checked w. results  
Explanatory Role  
Profiling  
Comm w. Admin

✓ Room ✓ 476 10-12

✓ Speaker - MAX

Clear in - need list.

ms  
sensible



Washington Friends of Disabled Israeli War Veterans

416 Lambertson Drive  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

364 5578

July 13, 1986

Zev - OK - let  
them know

yes on July 16, 1986  
gmett -  
file in  
Scheduling

Mr. Max Green  
Associate Director  
Office of Public Liaison  
196 Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Green,

Room 476

Room  
booked →

→ 476 Zev  
450 Rita

This letter will confirm my recent telephone conversation with Zev Lewis, during which we tentatively scheduled a meeting for the ten disabled Israeli war veterans who will be visiting again in our community from September 8, 1986 to September 22, 1986. Additionally, this letter will refresh your memory about the group and provide you with some background information. Our meeting with you, we hope, can be arranged for Friday, September 12, 1986 at 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 and will immediately follow a VIP White House tour which is planned for 8:30 A.M.

I do not yet have the names of those persons participating in the program this year; however, I will of course forward them to you as soon as they are available. The group will probably range in age from early twenties to sixties and the percentage of their disabilities can range from 35% to 100%. All of the participants have suffered their injuries while serving with the Israel Defense Forces, some as recently as the Peace for Galilee operation and others during one of Israel's early wars.

By way of background, this is the ninth year that the Washington community, in cooperation with the Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization of Israel, has brought ten disabled Israeli war veterans to the area for a two week visit. All funds are raised locally and extensive day and evening programs are planned. The two week visit is our small expression of commitment to the men of Israel who have fought continuously and courageously for Israel's safety and who have made far greater commitments and sacrifices.

The program, though ongoing in a number of European countries for many years, was started here in 1976 at the suggestion and under the direction of Mrs. Leah Rabin. The veterans are selected by the Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization, a part of the Israel Defense Forces, and locally sponsorship is provided by the Israeli Embassy and the Jewish Community Center.

While in our community, the veterans are paired with volunteer host families for a whirlwind two weeks of sightseeing, social, cultural and athletic activities.

Highlights have included a Capitol Hill reception with Jewish Members of Congress; a trip to Annapolis and lunch with the Naval Academy Jewish midshipmen; industrial tours to the General Motors assembly plant in Baltimore and Bethlehem Steel Corporation at Sparrows Point; visits to local Jewish Agencies -- The Jewish Community Center, Hebrew Home of Greater Washington and Revitz House; and the Soviet Jewry Vigil. Evenings at the circus, a basketball game, the marine parade and a special Shabbat family dinner and service have also been a part of the busy schedule.

The volunteer in charge of this program in Israel described the value of our efforts this way -- "This contact with our boys with the Jewish communities abroad has an immense value and importance. They find that they can function in strange surroundings and that people they meet overlook their handicaps and accept them for themselves. This serves as a great boost for their morale. They are surprised and heartened by the deep feelings and sentiments Jews in other countries have for Israel. The warm hospitality they face abroad means to them more than anything that could be offered to them otherwise. It is a known fact that our veterans touch the hearts and minds of everyone who has met them."

In past years White House souvenirs such as pictures, pens, matchbooks, notepads, etc. have been available for the veterans. I have mentioned this also to the individual in the Vice President's Office through whom we scheduled the White House tour but have not received any assurances from her. So, any help in this area would be most appreciated. Likewise, in past years the White House photographer has been available for pictures - can this be arranged again?

It was our special honor to have been the very first Jewish group you met with last year and we look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you again. Thank you again for your help and cooperation. Please do not hesitate to call if I can answer any questions for you or provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,



Merna Wagshal  
Daytime Activities  
593-7073

P.S. Because of the logistics involved in planning our comprehensive two week program, I would appreciate a confirmation for our meeting as soon as possible. I may be out of the country for several weeks during the summer. Accordingly, if any additional information is required, please contact Andrea Kraus at 949-1662 or my husband Marc at his office 654-5757 in my absence. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

7/30/86

Yes,

Enclosed are the  
names of the Israelis  
making up our  
group. I will call  
you with the names  
of the Americans  
before our meeting  
on Sept. 12. Merna  
593-7073

jean facks

11560 -

- 1111 -

by schedule

The following persons will make up the delegation of disabled Israeli war veterans visiting Washington in 1986.

1. Robert Dassa
2. Marcel Boger-Ninio
3. Avi Salah-Nachum
4. Ador Ben-Aba
5. Ran Gottlieb
6. Mordehai Stilman
7. Arie Guter
8. David Segal
9. Arie Bar-Sadeh
10. Avraham Blasberg

We do not yet have the names of the committee members who will be accompanying the group. We will telephone the names to you as soon as that information becomes available.

Matt - three people are coming to WHH on 9/12.  
Will need further ID info. Please call Menna



# PRESERVATION

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 in key states (Ill., N.Y., Cal.)  
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