Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Roberts, John G.: Files

Folder Title: JGR/BMW Correspondence

(2 of 4)

Box: 6

To see more digitized collections visit: https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit: https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing

National Archives Catalogue: https://catalog.archives.gov/

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Ms. Knobler:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

With respect to your comments on the particular make of automobile chosen by the individuals in question, I can only state that such decisions are matters of personal consumer preference which it would be inappropriate for the Government to regulate.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

John Holder

John G. Roberts
Associate Counsel to the President

Ms. Hannah F. Knobler 10006 Sidney Road Silver Spring, MD 20901 4

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CORRESPON	NDENCE TRACI	KING WOR	CSHEET	and the
□ O · OUTGOING			0.0	12
H · INTERNAL			W.	
I - INCOMING Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) / / /				
Name of Correspondent: Hans	rah Kno	bler		
☐ Mi Mail Report Use	er Codes: (A)		(B)	(C)
Subject: BMWs	and the state of t			
ROUTE TO:	ACT	ION	DIS	POSITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD
CUHOLL	_ ORIGINATOR	85,04,03		
	Referral Note:			
CUAT 18	_ RO, 8	1510405		S 85104115
	Referral Note:			
		1	<u> Japan kan jagar k</u>	
	Referral Note:			
	The second of th			
	Referral Note:			
	ncicilar note.			
aan dhadaa qaya qabah iyo qabah ishaa aa dhadaa aa ah dhadaa qaya dhaa qayay aa aa dhaa aa baada dhaa aa aa ah Aa aa aa ah aa		····		
	Referral Note:			***************************************
C · Comment/Recommendation R D · Draft Response S	- Info Copy Only/No Acti - Direct Reply w/Copy - For Signature - Interim Reply	on Necessary	DISPOSITION CODES A - Answered B - Non-Special Ref	C - Completed erral S - Suspended
Comments:			Type of Response Code Completion Date	
		and the second s		ang mengangan kabupatèn dari dari dari dari dari dari dari dari
etter kalanga sikurun samun samun satut kanang sikurun tara menderi kanang perunang kanang satut kanang satut Bangan terlah satut samun samun satut samun				
		teraphy de partie paga e raina magistro y far e e tembro	and the state of t	

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

BMW 309143 CM Whear hu President. Why do your people-ent anass you all the time? He the enclosed chipping They not buy Umerican to help our ailing sconomy 1/2 ove no allegrance. to any other country. Homo truly 1 H. F. Knobber TS, I love and revere our country and hate to see such actions. In an old lady.

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mrs. Lee:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

With respect to your specific question, diplomatic passports are issued under limited circumstances and only to those conducting official United States Government business abroad.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

John Solbet

John G. Roberts
Associate Counsel to the President

Mrs. Joan Lee #9 Arundel Place St. Louis, MO 63105

			ın., 3(9142 cı
170			10 H	
\sim 4.	WHITE HO	MICE	4	1616
CORRESI	PONDENCE TRAC			
			SHEET	· M
O - OUTGOING			mod	
☐ H - INTERNAL ☐ I - INCOMING			AH.	
Date Correspondence			V	
Received (YY/MM/DD)				
Name of Correspondent:	van tee			
☐ M1 Mail Report	User Codes: (A)_		B)	(C)
Subject BMWs				
Subject: \$771W3				
			4.60	
ROUTE TO:	AC	TION	DISPO	SITION
		Tracking	Type	Completion
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Date YY/MM/DD	of	Date Code YY/MM/DD
Onceragency (Stan Name)	Code	Market Committee Williams	nesponse	Code: Transport
CULHOLL	ORIGINATOR	25,04,04		1 1
	Referral Note:	¥T- ₹ \$ * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		
CUAT 18	P	Quinchar		c acrailed
MHI (— <u>~</u>	85104105		S 8510415
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:	14. 		
ACTION CODES:			DISPOSITION CODES:	C Completed
A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet	I - Info Copy Only/No Al R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply	GIOTI NECESSARY	A - Answered B - Non-Special Referre	C - Completed al S - Suspended

Comments:

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

to be used as Enclosure

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

march 5, 1985

y. Dear mr President

we heard on Whitever and read in the newspapers on Morch 4 and 5 that michael K. Deaver and other front men assigned to arrainge your trip to Germany in may have purchased nine & MW's at a direcent of 25% each through we of a diplomatic passport.

my husband and I are planning our first trip to Hermany in May and also plan to buy a 12 MW and tour the country for two weeks before returning to the U.S.

Can obtain the 35% discount and have the car shipped back to the States. Your direct help, rather than through a bureaucrate will be greatly appreciated, and the substantial paving would mean so much to us.

Most Jinerely Joan Lee # 9 arundel Place H Lavis, Missouri 62105

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Your letter complained about the purchase of 25 automobiles; actually nine vehicles were involved.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

With respect to your comments on the particular make of automobile chosen by the individuals in question, I can only state that such decisions are matters of personal consumer preference which it would be inappropriate for the Government to regulate.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

John Folket

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

Mrs. I. Bronson 10139 Woodley #234 Sepulneda, CA 91343

O - OUTGOING H - INTERNAL 1 - INCOMMC Date Correspondence Hecever (TYMMIOD) Mil Mail Report User Codes: (A) (B) (C) Subject: ACTION DISPOSITION Tracking Date Odd PyMMiD Action Code Tracking Date Odd PyMMiD Action Flesponse Code PyMMiD Referral Note: ACTION ACTION Referral Note: ACTION CODES A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Pymmichappores P - Philipsepores P - Philipsepores T - Philipse	CORRES	WHITE HO			E001
Disposition		T WITH BEILD WE KILLY	20 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
Name of Correspondence				1211	
Date Correspondence: Received (YY/MM/DD)				(MV/	
Subject: Su	Date Correspondence / / /				
ROUTE TO: ACTION DISPOSITION Tracking Date of Completion Date Code YYMM/DD Response Code YY/MM/DD Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A Appropriate Action C Comment/Recommendation C Comment/Recommendation D Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C C Comment/Recommendation C C Comment/Recommendation D Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet T C December 2 Suspended ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C C Comment/Recommendation C C Comment/Recommendation D Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet T C December 2 Suspended ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C C Comment/Recommendation D Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet T C December 2 Suspended A - Answered S - Suspended B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response Initiats of Signer Code 2 A Completion Date = Date of Outgoing	Name of Correspondent: MM	J. Bronson			
ROUTE TO: ACTION ACTION DISPOSITION Tracking Date Type of Path Date Of Date Of Path Date Of	☐ MI Mail Report	User Codes: (A)_		(B)	(C)
ROUTE TO: Offlice/Agency (Staff Name) Offlice/Agency (Staff Name) Action Date Tracking Date Of Response Code Ty/IMM/IDD ORIGINATOR 85/03/04 ORIGINATOR 85/03/04 Referral Note: 1	Subject: BMWs				
ROUTE TO: Offlice/Agency (Staff Name) Offlice/Agency (Staff Name) Offlice/Agency (Staff Name) ORIGINATOR S5/03/29 ORIGINATOR S5/03					
ROUTE TO: Offlice/Agency (Staff Name) Offlice/Agency (Staff Name) Offlice/Agency (Staff Name) ORIGINATOR S5/03/29 ORIGINATOR S5/03					
Action Code Tracking Date of Date Office/Agency (Staff Name) CHALL ORIGINATE 85/03/29 Referral Note: Referral Note: Referral Note: Referral Note: Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D. Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure Tracking Date Office Code Tracking Date of Code Tracking Date Office Date Office Date		[[[: 14] [[: 1]			
Office/Agency (Staff Name) Code	ROUIE TO:	- AC	TION	, DISI	OSITION
Referral Note: Referral Note: Referral Note: Referral Note: Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure T - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing	Office/Agency (Staff Name)		Date	of	
Referral Note: Referral Note:	CUHOLL	ORIGINATOR	85,03,29		
Referral Note: Page		Referral Note:			
Referral Note: Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure Referral Note: DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing	CUAT 18	Λ 4	85104101	- Managing transmission of the Control of the Contr	5 8510411
Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure Referral Note: DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing		Referral Note			,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure Referral Note: DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing		-	1 1 1	manufaction and a second and a	
Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure Referral Note: DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered C - Completed B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing		Referral Note:			
Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure Referral Note: DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered C - Completed B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing					
Referral Note: ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure Referral Note: DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered C - Completed B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing					
ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure A - Appropriate Action B - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing		meterral Note:			
A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure A - Appropriate Action C - Completed C - Completed B - Non-Special Referral C - Completed		Referral Note:			
A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure A - Appropriate Action C - Completed C - Completed B - Non-Special Referral C - Completed	ACTION CODES			DISDOSITION CODES	
to be used as Enclosure FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing	A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response	R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature	tion Necessary	A - Answered	
Comments:		X - Interim Heply		Type of Response = Code =	Initials of Signer
	Comments:				and the second

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Fleference, ext. 2590.

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR KATHY R. JAFFKE

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

BMW Correspondence

You referred to this office a letter from Senator Goldwater to Mr. Friedersdorf, transmitting a constituent letter complaining about the BMW incident. I have prepared the attached reply to the constituent, based on a form reply we have been sending to all who write in concerning the episode. Please advise if your office has any objection; if not I will send the letter. You will probably want to furnish Senator Goldwater with a copy; I will leave that to you.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Wray:

You recently wrote to Senator Barry Goldwater concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of a White House advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Senator Goldwater has referred your correspondence to the White House for a reply.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

With respect to your comments on the particular make of automobile chosen by the individuals in question, I can only state that such decisions are matters of personal consumer preference which it would be inappropriate for the Government to regulate.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

John Tolk A

John G. Roberts
Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. Park Q. Wray 11813 N. Oakhurst Way Scottsdale, AZ 85254

8	n	#_			10.1		and the second
8	With	A 6	 	 			

WHITE HOUSE

/	1		
1/		1	1
16	6	C	P

CORRESPO	NDENCE TRACK	ING WORK	SHEET '		
O - OUTGOING					
H INTERNAL					
Date Correspondence 85/03/120 Received (YY/MM/DD)					
Name of Correspondent:	f Goldwat	ev			
- With Milder Coper.	ser Codes: (A)		B)	(C)	
Subject: Encloses corres	pordence f le purcha	from M	r. Park 9	. W.	ray
Subject: Encloses corresponding automobil	le purcha	se by	White Ha	use	staff.
			The second secon		
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
ROUTE TO:	ACT	ION	DISP	OSITI	ON
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
LA OGLE	ORIGINATOR	85103121		5	85,03,22
0.465	Referral Note:	200		<u> </u>	
CUHOLL	_ _ \	55,103,122	Johnston and the Company of the		1
CUATI8	Referral Note:	2- 05 08			ar alac
W1116	\(\sqrt{\beta} \)	35 103 125		2	85104105
	Referral Note:	-	and the second s		
			And the second s		
	Referral Note:		and the second s		
	Referral Note:				
ACTION CODES:			DISPOSITION CODES:		
A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response	I - Info Copy Only/No Act R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature	tion Necessary	A - Answered B - Non-Special Refe	rral	C - Completed S - Suspended
F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure	X - Interim Reply		FOR OUTGOING CORP		
			Type of Response = Code = Completion Date =	"A"	
Comments:					

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Darnton:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely, Och Solah

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. Thomas E. Darnton 11802 S.E. Village Drive Jupiter, Florida 33458

		400	400	*******	
7	H				



CORRESP	ONDENCE TRAC	CKING WORK	SHEET	July 1
□ O - OUTGOING □ H - INTERNAL □ 1 - INCOMING □ Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD)			SHEET	
Name of Correspondent:	nus Barnto	<i>7</i> .		
□ MI Mail Report I	User Codes: ◎(A) _	(В)	_ (C)
Subject: BMWs				
ROUTE TO:	AC	TION	DIS	POSITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD
	DRIGINATOR	85,03,19		
CUHILL CUAT 18	Referral Note:	385104101		885104111
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
				
	Referral Note:			

	Referral Note:			
ACTION CODES: A · Appropriate Action C · Comment/Recommendation D · Draft Response F · Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure	I - Info Copy Only/No A R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply	ction Necessary	Code	C - Completed erral S - Suspended
Comments:				

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590. THOMAS E. DARNTON 11802 S.E. VILLAGE DRIVE JUPITER, FLORIDA 88458

Thank 19, 1985

President of The States States ze asking for DC.

L'en mr Triedent

In writing to voice my appeter to the reports carried in the price about members of your daff taking aboutage of their positions and burying auto mabiles for their own frients gain.

The report (20th Sofire) states the year response road "the frontier has give on for many years in our embraces to as standard fractice". It was leader, & favoring how you have not tolerated wrong fractions I would have you will not the read straight.

Luce

Thomas & Garaton

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

BMW Letter from Lowell Myers

As previously instructed, I have been sending out form replies to the BMW letters. You asked that the reply to this particular letter be prepared for your signature; a draft is attached, with an appropriate addition to correct the writer's impression that Mr. Deaver himself purchased nine automobiles. Mr. Myers wrote one letter to the President, but sent copies to both you and the President.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Your letter complained about Mr. Deaver "buying (9) cars using a diplomatic passport." That is not what happened. Rather, nine individual members of the advance team arranged to purchase one automobile each.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

Mr. Lowell Myers Post Office Box 6759 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

FFF:JGR:aea 4/8/85

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

BMW Letter from Lowell Myers

As previously instructed, I have been sending out form replies to the BMW letters. You asked that the reply to this particular letter be prepared for your signature; a draft is attached, with an appropriate addition to correct the writer's impression that Mr. Deaver himself purchased nine automobiles. Mr. Myers wrote one letter to the President, but sent copies to both you and the President.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Your letter complained about Mr. Deaver "buying (9) cars using a diplomatic passport." That is not what happened. Rather, nine individual members of the advance team arranged to purchase one automobile each.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

Mr. Lowell Myers Post Office Box 6759 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

FFF:JGR:aea 4/8/85

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

O - OUTGOING H - INTERNAL Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD)	WHITE HO ONDENCE TRAC		ID#	cu trum at
Name of Correspondent: KauuU	s Tryers	- 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2		
☐ Mi Mail Report #1	User Codes: (A)_		(B)	_ (C)
Subject: BMWs			STATE OF THE STATE	
	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	en e		
	The Control of the Co			
ROUTE TO:	AC	TION	DIS	POSITION
	The second secon	Tracking	Page National Section 2	A SECTION OF SECTION S
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Date YY/MM/DD	Type ∘of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD
	<u> </u>	30-12 N		and the state of t
Сини	ORIGINATOR	A71 E11 CB		
	Referral Note:			
CUAT 18		\$5103121		585,04,07
	Referral Note:	The second secon		
		_ 1 -1		i Wali
	Referral Note:			
			Back D. Martin Co. 1800 and 1800. Back D. Process Brown and 1800.	
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
	nelectal Note.	W stranger and the second		
ACTION CODES: A · Appropriate Action C · Comment/Recommendation D · Draft Response F · Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure	I - Info Copy Only/No Ar R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply	ction Necessary	DISPOSITION CODES A Answered B - Non-Special Ref	C - Completed erral S - Suspended
			Type of Response Code	

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

March 10, 1985

President Ronald Reagan The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Honestly? You don't see anything wrong with Mike Deaver buying (9) cars using a diplomatic passport to get a good discount? NINE CARS?

To me it smacks of Mike using a DP for personal gain.

My opinion is that it is WRONG, Ron, very wrong!

How about 100 cars? Would that be wrong?

engers

As an American citizen I recommend that a DP be used for buying no more than 2 family cars a year on special discount.

Sincerely,

Lowell Myers

Washington (UPI) - President Reagan says he sees nothing wrong with top side Michael Desver and other staff members using diplomatic passports to get discounts on nine <a href="https://www.nine.com/michael/bw/

"You're talking about something that has gone on for a great many years, that exists in our embassies in all different countries," Reagan replied when asked whether Deputy Chief of Staff Deaver acted appropriately.

"It's a standard practice that's been used for many, many years," he said. Asked if he believed there was "nothing wrong with what Deaver did," Resgan asid, "no."

Earlier, spokesman Larry Speakes refused to comment, saying White House Counsel Fred Fielding was studying the facts of the case.

Deaver, who has announced he will leave his post in April or May, probably to take a lucrative job in public relations, led a 30-member advance party to West Germany to set up the president's May 1-6 stay in West Germany.

WIRE SR. RPT., 3/10/85

YCC. FRED FIELDING

WASHINGTON.

April 8, 1985

Dear Judge Maguire:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

With respect to your comments on the particular make of automobile chosen by the individuals in question, I can only state that such decisions are matters of personal consumer preference which it would be inappropriate for the Government to regulate.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Ophisolate

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

The Honorable John N. Maguire 14 Hampshire Woods Towson, MD 21204

ID #___

Lig

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

								- pinte	훈.
								ŭ	藍
interpret	-		jin in	-	 	******	-		.70
		- 20	ġ.						

O · OUTGOING			^	1
□ H · INTERNAL			$\langle \langle \rangle \rangle$	
□ I - INCOMING Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) / /			Ĵ	
	in magure			
□ MI Mail Report	User Codes: (A)		(B)	(C)
	osei codes. (A)			
Subject: <u>&MW5</u>				
ROUTE TO:	-AC	CTION	DIS	POSITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD
CUHT 18	ORIGINATOR	85,03,21		
	Referral Note:			
CUAT 18	D @	\$5103122	***************************************	5 85704102
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
		- W - W	Action in the second se	
	Referral Note:			
		1 1.		
	Referral Note:			
		ATT TO THE WALL TO		
ACTION CODES:			DISPOSITION CODES	C - Completed
A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet	1 - Info Copy Only/No A R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply		A - Answered B - Non-Special Rel	
to be used as Enclosure			FOR OUTGOING COR	The state of the s
			Type of Response Code Completion Date	
Comments:				

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

J. Fredding

JUDGE JOHN N. MAGUIRE

14 HAMPSHIRE WOODS

TOWSON MARYLAND 21204

March 18, 1985

President Ronald Reagan 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I was shocked to read the article in the Baltimore Morning Sun on March 5, 1985, with respect to the activities of Michael K. Deaver and other members of your advance team with respect to the purchase of BMW automobiles in Germany at sizeable discounts.

Thereafter, your White House counsel, Mr. Fielding, was advised by Mr. Regan to look into the matter. Within a week apparently Mr. Fielding found no illegal activities on the part of Deaver, et. al.

The legality of the transaction is not my concern. I am appalled that a close aide to you and his associates have the audacity to purchase German made vehicles when your great concern is unemployment in America. They purchase foreign goods while our labor groups are seeking jobs for Americans.

At this time I will not engage in the pros and cons of the purchase of foreign goods by Americans. But, I do remember vividly the foxholes in World War II and the White Crosses and Stars of David in Normandy.

I am your ardent supporter and had the pleasure of exercising my franchise right to vote for you in both elections. You do not need people like this around you.

Continued good health to you and Mrs. Reagan.

Respectfully,

John N. Maguire Retired Judge

rengi (filosomere), il tengi in suo si il si il tendi in estimo di premiore se este il tengio di si Inggri filosomere suo este este en suggiore estimo este dell'estimo di estimo estimo estimo estimo estimo esti

JNM/js

CC: Honorable Donald Regan

WASHINGTON

April 9, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

FROM:

KATHY RATTÉ JAFFKE

SUBJECT:

BMW Correspondence from Senator Barry Goldwater

I have no objection to the letter you prepared to Senator Goldwater's constituent, Mr. Park Q. Wray, concerning the BMW incident. I have copied the Senator.

Thanks for your assistance.

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Wray:

You recently wrote to Senator Barry Goldwater concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of a White House advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Senator Goldwater has referred your correspondence to the White House for a reply.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

With respect to your comments on the particular make of automobile chosen by the individuals in question, I can only state that such decisions are matters of personal consumer preference which it would be inappropriate for the Government to regulate.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns.

John Tolet

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

Mr. Park Q. Wray 11813 N. Oakhurst Way Scottsdale, AZ 85254

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR KATHY R. JAFFKE

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

BMW Correspondence

You referred to this office a letter from Senator Goldwater to Mr. Friedersdorf, transmitting a constituent letter complaining about the BMW incident. I have prepared the attached reply to the constituent, based on a form reply we have been sending to all who write in concerning the episode. Please advise if your office has any objection; if not I will send the letter. You will probably want to furnish Senator Goldwater with a copy; I will leave that to you.

Attachment

(yr)-

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DIANNA HOLLAND

FROM:

KATHY RATTÉ JAFFKE

SUBJECT:

BMW Incident

Attached is a letter to Max Friedersdorf from Senator Barry Goldwater regarding the purchase of BMW's by White House staff while advancing the President's European trip.

I would appreciate your advice on whether to respond to the attached. If the Counsel's office recommends a response from B. Oglesby, I will need your guidance on language. If you suggest no response, just let me know.

Thank you for your help in this regard.

BARRY GOLDWATER ARIZONA, CHAIRMAN

STROM THURMOND, SOUTH CAROLINA JOHN W. WARNER VIRGINIA GORDON J. HUMPHREY, NEW HAMPSHIRE GARY HART, COLORADO WILLIAM S. COHEN, MAINE DAN QUAYLE, INDIANA JOHN P. EAST, NORTH CAROLINA PETE WILSON, CALIFORNIA JEREMIAH DENTON, ALABAMA

PHIL GRAMM, TEXAS

SAM NUNN GEORGIA JOHN C. STENNIS, MISSISSIPPI J. JAMES EXON, NEBRASKA CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS JEFF BINGAMAN, NEW MEXICO ALAN J. DIXON, ILLINOIS JOHN GLENN, OHIO

JAMES F. McGOVERN, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL ARNOLD L. PUNARO, STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE MINORITY

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 1985

Mr. Max Friedersdorf Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Max:

It would be much appreciated if your office would provide me with a reply for my constituent, Mr. Wray, relative to his question. He claims to have no objection to a possible discount for White House staff purchasing automobiles, but wonders why a discount wasn't pursued with an American manufacturer instead of a foreign one. I reminded him that we sell a lot of Toyotas in Arizona so that one answer is "freedom of choice," but I also assured him that I would try to get a reply for him.

With Kest wishes,

March 5, 1985

The Honorable Barry Goldwater United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

I have never written a Senator before, but having just watched the evening news, I'm genuinely annoyed. The report stated that 9 White House staff members had purchased BMW automobiles at a discount.

My complaint: The fact that their diplomatic passports garnered them a substantial discount doesn't bother me at all. Every key job has certain perquisites. However, with our balance of payments problems, what kind of example from Ronnie's people is this?

It's actions such as these that make it difficult to be supportive of our federal government.

Sincerely

Gal Qunase Park Q. Wray

POW/dw

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

April 11, 1985

Dear Congresswoman Roukema:

Thank you for your letter of March 28 to Counsel to the President Fred F. Fielding. That letter requested that this office respond directly to an inquiry received by your office concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of a White House advance team.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the letter we have sent in response to your request. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

John G. Roberts
Associate Counsel to the President

John Boldet

The Honorable Marge Roukema United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

April 11, 1985

Dear Mrs. Simonoff:

Congresswoman Roukema has advised this office of your concerns about the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

John G. Roberts

Associate Counsel to the President

John Robert

Mrs. Helene Simonoff 13-3 Tamaron Drive Waldwick, New Jersey 07463

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

	č	1094	73	
D	#			 CU

□ O - OUTGOING			N	m-AV
☐ H · INTERNAL				N-m
Date Correspondence				<i>)</i>
Received (YY/MM/DD)				
Name of Correspondent:	we some	WH-		
☐ MI Mail Report	User Codes: (A)_		(B)	_ ạ(C)
Subject: 6MW5				
ROUTE TO:	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD
CUHOLL	ORIGINATOR	85,04,08		
CUAT 18	Referral Note:	ar all no		act all
WIII 10	\ \ \ \ \ \	82104107		5 83 10917
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
	Referral Note:			
		111		
	Referral Note:			ti dang pampagpani anak dang pagpan dang dang pang panah dang pang pang pang pang pang pang pang p
ACTION CODES:			DISPOSITION CODES	3
A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet	S - For Signature X - Interim Reply		A - Answered C - Completed B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing	
to be used as Enclosure				
Comments:				

MARGE ROUKEMA

COMMITTEES:

BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER (RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
303 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4465

NEW JERSEY OFFICES: 555 ROUTE 17 SOUTH RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450 (201) 447-3900

58 TRINITY STREET NEWTON, NJ 07860 (201) 579-3039

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 1985

The Honorable Fred Fielding Counsel to the President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Fielding:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a message I received from my consitutent, Mrs. Helene Simonoff, concerning Mr. Deaver's recent trip to West Germany.

I would appreciate your direct response to Mrs. Simonoff on this matter.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,

Marge Roukema

Member of Congress

MR: Kd

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE WITH RECYCLED FIBERS

309473ch

MARGE ROUKEMA 5TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES

BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER (RANKING MINORITY MEMBER)



Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20115

March 28, 1985

(202) 225-4466

NEW JERSEY OFFICES:
666 ROUTE 17 SOUTH

NEW JERSEY OFFICES: 555 ROUTE 17 SOUTH RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450 (201) 447-3900

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

303 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

58 TRINITY STREET NEWTON, NJ 07850 (201) 579-3039

Mrs. Helene Simonoff 13-3 Tamaron Drive Waldwick, New Jersey 07463

Dear Mrs. Simonoff:

Thank you for contacting my office to express your opposition to the discounts received by Presidential Advisor Michael Deaver and his staff, for the purchase of automobiles while in West Germany.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your comments to the Honorable Fred Fielding, Counsel to the President, for his direct reply.

As always, I appreciate having the benefit of your thoughts on matters of concern. I hope you will continue to share your concerns with me on this and other matters of importance in the future.

Sincerely,

Marge Roukema

Member of Congress

MR:Kd

MEMORANDUM

TO: John and Cindy

RE: Constituent's views

FM: Julie

Mr

SimonoFF

March 11, 1985

Mr. Winiam Bekerhardt

lizasdale, NJ 07642

Eck thardt would like Marge to vote for the

Marie and Malter Popp

23 Palm Cr.

7 076 2

and Mrs. sopp are against both Star Wars and the MX.

Diane and Ruchen Samuels

195 Harwood Pl. Daramus Nj 0765

Mr. and Ms. Samuels are opposed to MX and Star Wars

MAR 14 1

Ms. Helen Simonoff

13-3 Tammaron Dr.

Waldwick

Ms. Simorff is upset at Michael Deaver trip to West Germany and the discount his staff got on BMW's.

J83/11

WASHINGTON

April 19, 1985

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Your letter complained about Mr. Deaver "buying (9) cars using a diplomatic passport." That is not what happened. Rather, nine individuals -- four White House staff members, two Secret Service members, and three U.S. embassy employees -- arranged to purchase one automobile each.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

Mr. Lowell Myers Post Office Box 6759 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

FFF:JGR:aea 4/19/85

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Your letter complained about Mr. Deaver "buying (9) cars using a diplomatic passport." That is not what happened. Rather, nine individual members of the advance team arranged to purchase one automobile each.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a Long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance om it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

Mr. Lowell Myers Post Office Box 6759 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

April 18, 1985

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Your letter complained about Mr. Deaver "buying (9) cars using a diplomatic passport." That is not what happened. Rather, nine individuals -- four White House staff members, two Secret Service members, and three German embassy employees -- arranged to purchase one automobile each.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the white House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to promibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Fred F. Hielding Counsel to the President

Mr. Lowell Myers Post Office Box 6759 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

FFF:JGR:aea 4/18/85

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WASHINGTON

April 18, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

BMW Correspondence

The last sentence of the first paragraph has been changed, as discussed at this morning's staff meeting.

Attachment

April 19, 1985

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for your recent letter to the President concerning the purchase of foreign automobiles by certain members of an advance team at a discount available to holders of diplomatic passports. Your letter complained about Mr. Deaver "buying (9) cars using a diplomatic passport." That is not what happened. Rather, nine individuals -- four White House staff members, two Secret Service members, and three U.S. embassy employees -- arranged to purchase one automobile each.

Regulations promulgated by the Department of State generally permit the acceptance of discounts available to holders of diplomatic passports. The offering of such discounts by foreign automobile manufacturers is a long-standing practice in several countries.

The acceptance of such discounts is not illegal, but the practice had never been reviewed by the White House and the White House had never given guidance on it to members of the staff. After review, we decided to prohibit members of the White House staff from accepting such discounts in the future, unless they are out of the country for 30 days or more. This office has alerted members of the staff to this new policy, and has also suggested to other departments and agencies that they review their policies on this question.

I hope the foregoing information responds to your concerns. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,

Orig., signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding Counsel to the President

Mr. Lowell Myers Post Office Box 6759 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

FFF:JGR:aea 4/19/85

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron