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Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

March 26, 1984

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert C. McFarlane
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

FROM: William French Smith *WFS*
Attorney General

SUBJECT: Exchange of correspondence with
Najeeb Halaby

Attached are copies of recent correspondence exchanged
with Najeeb Halaby concerning the American University in Beirut,
for whatever action you deem appropriate.

Attachments

3/27

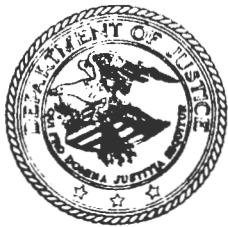
RCM:

How do you want the attached
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NSC 8402572



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

March 22, 1984

Dear Jeeb:

Thank you for your letter of February 27 regarding the American University in Beirut. You expressed concern about the status of green card-holding faculty members, and about continued U.S. financial support for the university. Let me say at the outset that I am a strong supporter of the university. AUB has made significant contributions both to educational excellence and to the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East. It is certainly in our national interests to strengthen the cultural and educational links which now exist between AUB and our country.

As you requested, I have taken another look at the problems AUB faculty members face in preserving their resident alien status in this country while abroad on teaching assignments. As you know, a combination of statutory limitations and administrative rulings has established a two-year limit on the length of time a resident alien may remain abroad on a re-entry permit. Last year we modified our administrative regulations -- which previously required re-entry within one year -- to allow such permits to be valid for a full two years. Legislation is required, however, to expand the re-entry time limit beyond two years.

With regard to the long-term financial well-being of the university, as stated earlier, I fully realize the need for substantial financial assistance at a time of confusion and turmoil in the Middle East. It is my understanding that Congress has been supportive of AUB, appropriating some \$57 million over the last five years. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the President's National Security Advisor, Robert McFarlane, so that he may be fully advised of the matter.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Bill

William French Smith
Attorney General

Mr. Najeeb E. Halaby
1822 Kalorama Square, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

1822 Kalorama Square N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

February 27, 1984

The Honorable
William French Smith
The Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
10th and Constitution Avenue Northwest
Room 5111
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Bill:

Allison and I heard of your resignation with personal regret because we shall miss you and Jean very much! You have had a most interesting and distinguished period of public service and, as a simple citizen, I thank you and respect you for your strong convictions carried into action -- a rare achievement in Federal Service in recent years!

We expect to see you after returning from a trip to the Caribbean and hope that we will be able to entertain you at some time before you depart.

In contemplating your departure, we realize that the American University of Beirut is losing a particularly good friend and supporter in the Reagan Administration and we hope that we can count on you for your continued sympathy and concern as you resume private life.

In particular, we would like to ask you two favors. One is that you take one more look at what we can do either by direction or by legislation to assure the continued access by our faculty members holding green cards. As you are well aware, we are going through a dark period in Beirut and we need all the help we can get in that respect.

In addition, we would like to ask you to consider whether you think it appropriate and feasible to ask the President personally to endorse a campaign to underwrite the continuity of the University over the coming five years. I am a bit biased as Chairman of the

1822 Kalorama Square N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

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Board of Trustees -- admittedly -- but it seems to me that we are about the most enduring, constructive and hopeful institution of the United States in the Middle East. The kidnapping of David Dodge and other members of the AUB family and the assassination of our President, Malcolm Kerr, make the need for a permanent stand against terrorism in the Middle East even more poignant and urgent. There are so many enemies of freedom and zealots against the United States in the area at this time that only through the efforts of universities, churches and citizens' individual efforts are we likely to get any return to reason and compassion. AUB has over 118 years been such a voice and such a mission, as you well know. I wish you would contemplate how even in a time of deep deficit and many other demands, the President might forcefully and effectively take the lead in assuring the long-term survival of this great University.

I would like the privilege of calling you during the first week in March to see what may be possible for you to do to help us.

With the hope of seeing you soon, I am

Sincerely yours,



Najeeb E. Halaby

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8402572

RECEIVED 28 MAR 84 14

TO

McFARLANE

FROM SMITH, W

DOCDATE 26 MAR 84

SMITH, W

22 MAR 84

HALABY, NAJEEB E

27 FEB 84

KEYWORDS: LEBANON

SUBJECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BEIRUT

ACTION. PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE DUE: 30 MAR 84 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

KEMP

THOMPSON

COMMENTS

N.F. P. - 3/2/84

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(MR)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

C 4/2 No further Action Required

DISPATCH

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