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THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

P.O. Box 6298

Washington, DC 20015

August 9, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

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Dear Mr. President:

Until very recently, the position of our government with respect to events in Lebanon was exactly correct. However, I am disturbed by recent reports in the media that our government is urging Israeli pullbacks before the PLO leave Lebanon. Such pullbacks could only encourage the PLO to continue stalling and prolong the suffering of the Lebanese.

Although Israel's action was an attack in form, it was a defense of her existence in motive and content. It has opened the possibility, for the first time in years, of a strong central independent government by, of and for Lebanese. It has greatly weakened, if not eliminated the PLO as a source of terrorist training and supplies worldwide. Moderate Arabs can now cooperate in setting up an autonomous regime in the West Bank and Gaza with much less fear of assassination. Soviet influence in the Middle East has been weakened.

All foreign military forces should leave Lebanon as soon as possible, so the Lebanese can determine for themselves how to conduct their affairs.

Very respectfully yours,

Israel Rotkin

Israel Rotkin, Chairman

October 6, 1982

Dear Mr. Rotkin:

Thank you for your recent message. We appreciate your concern, and would like to take the opportunity to reiterate this Administration's enduring commitment to the security and well-being of the State of Israel.

President Reagan is working diligently toward peace in the Middle East and he is convinced peace and reconciliation can be achieved in Lebanon.

The United States and Israel have an enduring special relationship based on moral as well as strategic interests. As the President said, "Israel has the right to exist in peace behind secure and defensible borders and it has a right to demand of its neighbors that they recognize those facts. Israel has the right to exist free of the threat of terrorism and other forms of aggression." President Reagan has concluded that there now exist new opportunities for peace in the Middle East. These opportunities must now be seized.

With regard to the PLO, the President has made clear that the United States' position has not changed. The United States will not negotiate with the PLO until the PLO recognizes Israel and accepts UN resolutions 242 and 338.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and concerns with the Administration.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Gale
Deputy Special Assistant
to the President

Mr. Israel Rotkin
Chairman, National Capital Area
The Workmen's Circle
Post Office Box 6298
Washington, D.C. 20015

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