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Last Updated: 11/01/2023

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. memo (037386)	Raymond Tanter to Richard V. Allen, thoughts on legality of Israel's West Bank Settlements (partial)	8/3/81	P5 MSD 11/8/00
COLLECTION: WHORM: Subject File			ggc
FILE FOLDER: CO074 Israel (037386)			3/19/96

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(B)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

03335855 ✓
5175

3100

00074

PW

00165

September 4, 1981

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *Allen*
SUBJECT: Begin's Soviet Prison Memoirs

Israel Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who will visit Washington on September 9-10, wrote a book entitled White Nights -- his memoirs as a political prisoner in the Soviet Union in 1940-41. The book was published first in 1957.

The Soviet authorities arrested Begin in Lithuania in September 1940 for Zionist activities. Begin had been the head in Poland of Betar (bay-tar), a Zionist youth organization which drew inspiration from the teachings of the Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky.

White Nights begins with an account of Begin's arrest and covers his interrogation, his time in Lukishki prison, his transfer to a frozen prison camp in northern Russia, his release, and his departure from the Soviet Union. Though Begin was sentenced to eight years, he was released, along with other Polish citizens in Soviet prisons, soon after the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union. Hence Begin served a little less than one year of his term.

In White Nights, Begin reveals many of the traits that characterize him as Israel's Prime Minister today. He turned his interrogation by the fearsome NKVD, the KGB's predecessor, into a negotiation by refusing to sign his "confession" until the word "confess" was changed to "admit" (Chap. 8, pp. 90-96). Begin refused to submit to his NKVD interrogators on this point because it was a matter of principle; the dignity of the Zionist cause was linked, in Begin's view, to that choice of "admit" over "confess."

Personal dignity and correct manners are profoundly important to Begin. The book relates how one NKVD interrogator, in a moment of anger, switched from a formal to an informal form of address to Begin, who demanded (and received) an apology therefor.

I have highlighted certain passages in the book. Those in which Begin discusses his commitment to Zionism and his conviction that "there is room in Palestine ... for the Arabs, for millions of Jews, and for peace" (pp. 64, 74-75, 240) are especially noteworthy.

.81 28-4 61:32

Attachment

NSC # 8105175

'81 SEP -4 P7:35

RECEIVED

81 SEP 2 A10: 31

JANET COLSON

Jc

BUD NANCE

DICK ALLEN

IRENE DERUS

JANET COLSON

BUD NANCE

PETER

CY TO VP

SHOW CC

CY TO MEESE

SHOW CC

CY TO BAKER

SHOW CC

CY TO DEAVER

SHOW CC

CY TO BRADY

SHOW CC

Comments:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sep 4

Jeanne:

Irene typed the attached for Tyson
and it is all we have -- don't
think there is more to the package
except a little green book which
went to the P.

Dona

MEMORANDUM


NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

5175

ACTION

September 2, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM: DOUGLAS J. FEITH 
SUBJECT: Begin's Soviet Prison Memoirs

In connection with Begin's imminent visit to Washington, it would be worthwhile for the President to read portions of Begin's book, White Nights, an account of Begin's imprisonment by the Soviets in 1940-41 for Zionist activities.

Attached is a memo from you to the President which provides background to the book and recommends a reading of portions that I have highlighted with a yellow marker.

As I was unable to locate readily a copy of White Nights in the neighborhood, the attached copy is my own. If the President wants to keep it, he is welcome to it.

RECOMMENDATION: That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Memo to President
(with book)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Begin's Soviet Prison Memoirs

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who will visit Washington on September 9-10, wrote a book entitled White Nights -- his memoirs as a political prisoner in the Soviet Union in 1940-41. The book was published first in 1957.

The Soviet authorities arrested Begin in Lithuania in September 1940 for Zionist activities. Begin had been the head in Poland of Betar (bay-tar), a Zionist youth organization which drew inspiration from the teachings of the Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky.

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Personal dignity and correct manners are profoundly important to Begin. The book relates how one NKVD interrogator, in a moment of anger, switched from a formal to an informal form of address to Begin, who demanded (and received) an apology therefor.

I have highlighted certain passages in the book. Those in which Begin discusses his commitment to Zionism and his conviction that "there is room in Palestine ... for the Arabs, for millions of Jews, and for peace" (pp. 64, 74-75, 240) are especially noteworthy.

RECOMMENDATION: That you review the highlighted portions of Begin's White Nights.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment

RECEIVED 02 SEP 81 11

TO ALLEN

FROM FEITH

DOCDATE 02 SEP 81

KEYWORDS: ISRAEL

USSR

BEGIN, MENACHEM

SUBJECT: PM BEGIN BOOK WHITE NIGHTS RE SOVIET PRISON MEMOIRS

ACTION: FWD TO PRES FOR DECISION DUE: 03 SEP 81 STATUS X FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

ALLEN

KEMP

PIPES

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(H /)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
Pres	IP 9/04	for information		
	C 10/20	noted by Pres		DF

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

WH (C) 10

6

aj
/aj

ID # 036081

00074

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- T - INCOMING**
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/108/11

Name of Correspondent: Embassy of Israel

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Unopened

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>Osalle</u>	ORIGINATOR ^{CH}	<u>8/108/12</u>			<u>8/108/12</u> ^{CH}
	Referral Note:				
		<u> / / </u>			<u> / / </u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u> / / </u>			<u> / / </u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u> / / </u>			<u> / / </u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u> / / </u>			<u> / / </u>
	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 Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Comments: _____

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Prime Subject Code: CO 074 Secondary Subject Codes: EO 002 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package**
- C - Copy**
- D - Official document**
- G - Message**
- H - Handcarried**
- L - Letter**
- M - Mailgram**
- O - Memo**
- P - Photo**
- R - Report**
- S - Sealed**
- T - Telegram**
- V - Telephone**
- X - Miscellaneous**
- Y - Study**

CO 074
33008

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
3514 International Drive NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

036081

WHITE HOUSE MAIL
TELETYPE SECURITY

75C

THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dg

036765
4800
DD
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C0166
110014

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 2, 1981

Dear Mr. Shellenberger:

Mr. Allen has asked me to thank you for your letter of July 20th.

It was good of you to take the time to share your views with us.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Feith
Middle Eastern and
South Asian Affairs

X
Mr. Donald J. Shellenberger
Director of Camping Services
X Chimney Corners Camp for Girls
Becket, Massachusetts 01223

Req. US to insist Israel to seek accomodation w/ Arab Govt

NSC ID # 8104598

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8104598

RECEIVED 30 JUL 81 11

TO ALLEN

FROM SHELLENBERGER, D J

DOCDATE 20 JUL 81

036765

KEYWORDS: ISRAEL

MEDIA

ULLMAN, RICHARD

SUBJECT: REQUEST US TO INSIST ISRAEL TO SEEK ACCOMMODATION W/ ARAB GOVT

ACTION: PREPARE REPLY FOR ALLEN SIG DUE: 03 AUG 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

KEMP

TANTER

KAMINSKY

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(H /)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

C 8/05 faith said unto Shellenberger

DISPATCH

done by faith's gfc

W/ATTCH FILE

WH (C)

CAMP BECKET in the BERKSHIRES CHIMNEY CORNERS CAMP for GIRLS

GL
23 JUL 1981
4598

State Executive Committee - YMCAs of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

John Carr
Chairman, Camp Committee

Donald J. Shellenberger
Director of Camping Services

July 20, 1981

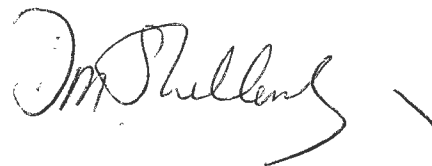
Mr. Richard Allen, III
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Allen:

This is merely a letter to express my personal view that it is long overdue for our country to insist that Israel either seek accommodation with the Arab governments or give up the bountiful largesse that we have provided. I am not as sophisticated as I would prefer to be on the issue but I find myself in full approval of Professor Richard Ullman's strong admonition for such a move as was suggested in his July 14 column in the New York Times.

Many of us are unable to fathom how a minority lobbying group can so effectively make itself heard in the Congress and at the White House. My hunch is that there are far more of us who, although supportive of a secure Israeli state, can no longer accept that government's intransigence. Mr. Reagan may very well discover another "silent majority" anxious to see our policy carry conditions of conservative accountability in our relationships with Israel.

Sincerely,



July 29, 1951

Mr. [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip]

The [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip] [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip] [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip]

of [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip] [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip] [Name] [Address] [City] [State] [Zip]

[Name]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 18, 1981

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PR010

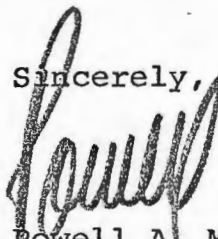
Dear Senator Dixon:

Thank you for your letter following-up my conversation with Gene Callahan about Governor Shapiro and the state dinner for Prime Minister Begin next month.

The number of places available at a state dinner is quite limited, but I am doing my best to accommodate this request and I will write you again when I have an answer.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,



Powell A. Moore
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs (Senate)

The Honorable Alan J. Dixon
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

PAM:jld

cc: Central Files

MEMORANDUM

4708

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

August 3, 1981

037386

1110

00074

00120

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM: RAYMOND TANTER RT

RVA HAS SEEN

SUBJECT: Thoughts on Legality of Israel's West Bank Settlements

At the staff meeting this morning I promised you a memo concerning the Legality of Israel's West Bank Settlements.

- In February 1981, President Reagan noted that the Carter Administration had labelled the settlements "illegal." President Reagan observed, "They are not."
- The settlements are legal, but the issue is properly a political question, not a legal question.
- The USG has recognized no country's sovereignty over the West Bank since Britain controlled the area under the Palestine Mandate.
- The issue of sovereignty is open and will not be closed until the actual parties to the conflict formally consent to a peace agreement.
- In the meantime, there is no law that bars Jews from settling on the West Bank. No one should be excluded from an area simply on account of nationality or religion.
- An ambiguous response concerning the legality of settlements inadvertently causes more press interest than either: 1) a finding that settlements are legal or 2) a statement that the legal question is irrelevant.

cc: Doug Feith

NSC# 8104708

#4708

ED

81 AUG 4 P 4: 15

JANET COLSON

[Handwritten signature]

BUD NANCE

[Handwritten signature]

DICK ALLEN

RVA HAS SEEN

IRENE DERUS

JANET COLSON

BUD NANCE

KAY

CY TO VP

SHOW CC

CY TO MEESE

SHOW CC

CY TO BAKER

SHOW CC

CY TO DEEVER

SHOW CC

CY TO BRADY

SHOW CC

RECEIVED 04 AUG 81 14

TO ALLEN

FROM TANTER

DOC DATE 03 AUG 81

037386

KEYWORDS: ISRAEL

LEGAL ISSUES

SUBJECT: THOUGHTS ON LEGALITY OF ISRAELI WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

DUE:

STATUS IX FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

ALLEN

KEMP

KIMMITT

FEITH *✓*

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(C /)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO *✓*

C 8/12 "RVA has seen"

RT

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

w/attch (c) down