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Joe-

FYI

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
September 24, 1986

~~Unit 1 Am~~  
Central Conference  
American Rabbis

Dear Rabbi Stevens,

Thank you for sharing CCAR resolutions with the White House. I am sure that you can understand, though, that we are simply not able to respond to the position statements of the multitude of organizations that concern themselves with public policy. In any event, you surely must know from his words and actions during the six years he has served as President, whether President Reagan agrees with you on such issues as aid to the Contras.

Thank you for your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

Max Green  
Associate Director  
Office of Public Liaison

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens  
Administrative Secretary  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 East 40th Street  
New York, New York 10016-0501

Molt - A  
regulations?  
Can you retrieve d CCAR

Attached

PRD13

WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 86/9/17

COPY  
from ORM

Name of Correspondent: Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Sends copy of a resolution adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD | Type of Response | Code     | Completion Date YY/MM/DD |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| <u>CS/NOLA</u>             | <u>86/9/18</u>         | <u>B</u>         | <u>C</u> | <u>86/9/18</u> TR        |
| <u>PL/GREE</u>             | <u>8/29/18</u>         | <u>MG</u>        | <u>A</u> | <u>86/9/24</u> AB        |
|                            |                        |                  |          |                          |
|                            |                        |                  |          |                          |
|                            |                        |                  |          |                          |
|                            |                        |                  |          |                          |

Matt Zachary

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:

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.

quasi - ditto  
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shw. det ca ?  
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
September 24, 1986

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21 East 40th Street  
New York, New York 10016-0501

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-0501 • (212) 684-4990

438793

September 12, 1986

The Hon. Donald Regan  
Secretary of the Treasury  
15th Street and Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20220-0000

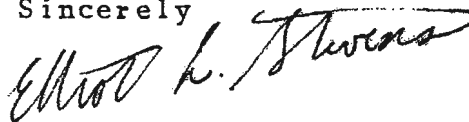
Dear Secretary Regan:

I am pleased to enclose the text of a resolution adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis at its 1986 convention, held recently in Snowmass, Colorado. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, with nearly 1,500 members throughout North America, represents Reform Judaism and its one-and-a-half million congregants. This convention was our ninety-seventh.

I am sure that our members would be interested in your response to this resolution, and would therefore welcome your additional perspective.

All good wishes.

Sincerely



Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens  
Administrative Secretary

Enc.

ELS:aio

OFFICERS:

Rabbi Jack Stern, *President*  
Scarsdale, NY  
Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *Vice President*  
Chevy Chase, MD  
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, *Executive Vice President*  
New York, NY

Rabbi Martin S. Weiner, *Treasurer*  
San Francisco, CA  
Rabbi Albert Plotkin, *Recording Secretary*  
Phoenix, AZ  
Rabbi Murray I. Rothman, *Financial Secretary*  
Newton, MA

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*  
New York, NY  
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*  
Cincinnati, OH

## ECONOMIC JUSTICE

(Adopted at the 97th Annual Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, June 26-July 1, 1986, Snowmass, Colorado)

WHEREAS the citizens of the United States are presently witnessing a widening gap between the affluent and those who live at or below the poverty level, and

WHEREAS we are keenly aware of the dislocation of families because of the loss of industry in depressed areas and the economic upheaval of farmers, and

WHEREAS the Central Conference of American Rabbis has a long-standing record of concern for adherence to the principles of economic justice in the United States and has spoken forthrightly on legislative matters concerning organized labor, and

WHEREAS the CCAR has supported legislation to assist and to provide decent low cost housing for the unemployed and low income families and individuals, and

WHEREAS the CCAR supported social legislation to alleviate the hardships and suffering that resulted from the collapse of our economic system in the 1930's,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the Central Conference of American Rabbis

1. Condemn the deliberate weakening of our nation's traditional "safety net" by reversing earlier child welfare legislation and virtually eliminating the school lunch program, by sharply reducing Medicaid and food stamp programs, and by eliminating the financing of legal aid for the poor;
2. Urge the President and the Congress of the United States to continue to seek passage of legislation that will undertake major tax reform, so that the tax burden may be equitably distributed among those who can carry their fair share of the responsibilities of a democratic society with the least hardship;
3. Support funding on the national and local levels for shelters for the homeless and day care centers for their children;
4. In areas of urban renewal, where low cost rooming houses and hotels are being razed to make way for commercial enterprises, those profiting from the renewal areas be taxed to provide adequate housing for those being dislocated in this process of renewal;
5. Demand that the Federal Government renew a program of low interest loans and other necessary support to enable farmers to retain their land and to plant crops that will yield an adequate income.

At the same time, we applaud the efforts of many synagogues and churches which provide emergency shelters and feeding programs where needed. We encourage our colleagues and their congregations to open their facilities for those purposes and to cooperate in interfaith efforts to meet the basic needs of the single-parent families, the physically and mentally handicapped, and the unskilled unemployed, who make up the vast majority of the homeless in the urban areas.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

PR-013

COPY  
from ORM

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 18, 1986

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI ELLIOTT L. STEVENS

SUBJECT: ENCLOSES COPIES OF 6 RESOLUTIONS ON DIFFERENT  
ISSUES AND REQUESTS A RESPONSE

| ROUTE TO:<br>OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME)   | ACTION      |                  | DISPOSITION  |                           |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
|                            |                | ACT<br>CODE | DATE<br>YY/MM/DD | TYPE<br>RESP | C COMPLETED<br>D YY/MM/DD |
| MAX GREEN                  |                | ORG         | 86/09/18         | MG           | A 86/9/24 AB              |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |              |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |              |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |              |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |              |                           |
|                            | REFERRAL NOTE: |             |                  |              |                           |

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

- \*\*\*\*\*
- |                          |                      |                      |   |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES:           | *DISPOSITION         | *OUTGOING            | * |
| *                        | *                    | *CORRESPONDENCE:     | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION    | *A-ANSWERED          | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS  | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM         | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER          | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE        | *C-COMPLETED         | * CODE = A           | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET    | *S-SUSPENDED         | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* |                      | * OUTGOING           | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * |                      |                      | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE         |                      |                      | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY         |                      |                      | * |
- \*\*\*\*\*

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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 24, 1986

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Max Green  
Associate Director  
Office of Public Liaison

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens  
Administrative Secretary  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
21 East 40th Street  
New York, New York 10016-0501



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אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-0501 • (212) 684-4990

*May Green*

September 12, 1986

President Ronald Reagan  
Office of the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500-0001

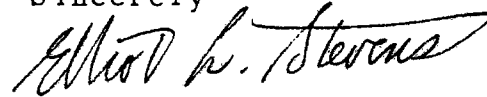
Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to enclose the text of a resolution adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis at its 1986 convention, held recently in Snowmass, Colorado. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, with nearly 1,500 members throughout North America, represents Reform Judaism and its one-and-a-half million congregants. This convention was our ninety-seventh.

I am sure that our members would be interested in your response to this resolution, and would therefore welcome your additional perspective.

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Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens  
Administrative Secretary

Enc.

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New York, NY  
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Cincinnati, OH

SOUTH AFRICA  
(Adopted at the 97th Annual Convention of the Central Conference  
of American Rabbis, June 26-July 1, 1986, Snowmass, Colorado)

WHEREAS our prophets and rabbis taught that all human beings are created in the image of God and have an equal claim to equity and justice, and

WHEREAS the Jewish religious tradition and historical experience equate racism with ultimate evil, and

WHEREAS Reform Judaism, throughout its history, has spoken with vigor and clarity against racial segregation and discrimination in the United States and the world, and

WHEREAS South Africa is the only country in the modern world that constitutionally establishes white supremacy and racial oppression, and

WHEREAS apartheid is a system that affronts the most profound values of humanity and democracy and violates the teachings of our religion, and the apartheid regime poses a moral challenge to all who cherish liberty and decency, and

WHEREAS in 1976 the CCAR protested against racism and police brutality in South Africa and its dealings with Zimbabwe,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Conference of American Rabbis:

1. Reaffirms its condemnation of apartheid.
2. Call upon the government of South Africa to release immediately Nelson Mandela and all others imprisoned because of their opposition to apartheid.
3. Call upon the government of South Africa to enter into negotiations aimed at eliminating apartheid with bona fide representatives of the victims of apartheid.
4. Call upon the Canadian Parliament and the United States Congress to enact legislation that will ban new business investment and bank loans in South Africa; ban the importation into the United States and Canada of all South African gold coins; ban all sales of US and Canadian equipment with military and police application; ban US and Canadian contributions to South Africa through the International Monetary Fund.
5. Call upon the governments of the United States and Canada to reduce the level of diplomatic recognition of South Africa.
6. Further call on the US Congress and the Canadian Parliament, if substantial progress toward the abolition of apartheid does not occur within one year, to enact the following legislation: divestment of United States and Canadian assets in South Africa, and Institution of a trade embargo between the United States and Canada, and South Africa.
7. Affirm its fraternal support for the Southern African Union for Progressive Judaism, the Southern African Association of Progressive Rabbis and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies in their support for fundamental reform of South African life and institutions, their condemnation of violence, and their complete rejection of apartheid.
8. Directs the Executive Board in a manner it deems appropriate and responsible to boycott firms that engage in business in South Africa and have not accepted

**the Sullivan Principles.**

9. Directs the Executive Board to divest the CCAR of all investments in corporations doing business in South Africa.

10. Further recommends that CCAR members urge their congregations and their individual members to cease the purchase of South African gold coins as an immediate, direct, personal and symbolic protest against South Africa's racist and repressive regime.

11. Calls upon the members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and their congregations and constituencies to lend moral and substantive support to those in South Africa actually engaged in the non-violent struggle against apartheid.

a. by continuing messages of support and encouragement to individuals such as Beyers Naude, Allan Boesak, Helen Suzmann, Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert, Winnie Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and others.

b. by establishing a relationship with and contributing to the Legal Resource Center at the University of Wetwatersrand.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR POW'S AND MIA'S  
(Adopted at the 97th Annual Convention of the Central Conference  
of American Rabbis, June 26-July 1, 1986, Snowmass, Colorado)

WHEREAS the imperative in our tradition of Kavod Hamet stipulates that families bury their dead and complete the grieving process, and

WHEREAS the War in Vietnam has been concluded for thirteen years, and

WHEREAS the remains of 2,400 Americans who fought in that war have not been accounted for, whose families still experience the pain of incomplete grief,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CCAR observe September 19, 1986 as a National Day of Remembrance and Recognition for Prisoners of War and Soldiers Missing in Action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CCAR urge the United States government to request, on humanitarian grounds, from the Vietnamese government, the return of the remains of those who served the United States in that region.

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ARMED STRUGGLE

(Adopted at the 97th Annual Convention of the Central Conference  
of American Rabbis, June 26-July 1, 1986, Snowmass, Colorado)

WHEREAS, the CCAR condemns terrorism, having cited specific, savage and tragic incidents in 1981 and 1985, to which we add the terror bombings in 1985, the Achille Lauro, the Rome Airport, Berlin Disco, and intended detonations of El Al airplanes in London and Madrid, and

WHEREAS, the CCAR denies that terrorism is justified by references to political philosophy, to proven or alleged atrocities in the past, to idealistic dreams for the future, and

WHEREAS, we reject all great power policies of "dirty little wars by proxy" against governments espousing social-economic systems which are hateful to one of the great powers, and

WHEREAS, the victims of terrorism are most frequently innocent civilians, travellers, children, passersby, diplomats, educators or the like, and

WHEREAS, tourism to Israel, Egypt and Europe is down dramatically, due to the continuing terrorist assault, particularly directed at Americans, American installations, Israel, and Jews, and

WHEREAS This terrorism further delays the Middle East Peace process by the intimidation of moderates through the attempted murder of all such individuals who dare negotiate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CCAR directly condemns the PLO, Syria, Libya and Iran, whose complicity in these murderous assaults has been demonstrated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CCAR applauds the intent of our Administration to treat as criminals those who commit terror and to war against terrorism, as against other forms of organized crime, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CCAR is absolutely opposed to any further supply and escalation of weapons to irregular forces, whether called "freedom fighters" or "terrorists," whose primary focus of attack is civilians; we are appalled especially by the danger to civilian aircraft which is raised by supplying sophisticated, anti-aircraft missiles to irregular forces, as against other forms of organized crime, engaged in armed struggle on any continent, in the name of any cause.

## ECONOMIC JUSTICE

(Adopted at the 97th Annual Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, June 26-July 1, 1986, Snowmass, Colorado)

WHEREAS the citizens of the United States are presently witnessing a widening gap between the affluent and those who live at or below the poverty level, and

WHEREAS we are keenly aware of the dislocation of families because of the loss of industry in depressed areas and the economic upheaval of farmers, and

WHEREAS the Central Conference of American Rabbis has a long-standing record of concern for adherence to the principles of economic justice in the United States and has spoken forthrightly on legislative matters concerning organized labor, and

WHEREAS the CCAR has supported legislation to assist and to provide decent low cost housing for the unemployed and low income families and individuals, and

WHEREAS the CCAR supported social legislation to alleviate the hardships and suffering that resulted from the collapse of our economic system in the 1930's,

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the Central Conference of American Rabbis

1. Condemn the deliberate weakening of our nation's traditional "safety net" by reversing earlier child welfare legislation and virtually eliminating the school lunch program, by sharply reducing Medicaid and food stamp programs, and by eliminating the financing of legal aid for the poor;
2. Urge the President and the Congress of the United States to continue to seek passage of legislation that will undertake major tax reform, so that the tax burden may be equitably distributed among those who can carry their fair share of the responsibilities of a democratic society with the least hardship;
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5. Demand that the Federal Government renew a program of low interest loans and other necessary support to enable farmers to retain their land and to plant crops that will yield an adequate income.

At the same time, we applaud the efforts of many synagogues and churches which provide emergency shelters and feeding programs where needed. We encourage our colleagues and their congregations to open their facilities for those purposes and to cooperate in interfaith efforts to meet the basic needs of the single-parent families, the physically and mentally handicapped, and the unskilled unemployed, who make up the vast majority of the homeless in the urban areas.

## SOVIET JEWRY

(Adopted at the 97th Annual Convention of the Central Conference  
of American Rabbis, June 26-July 1, 1986, Snowmass, Colorado)

WHEREAS the year 5746 has seen continued harassment of Soviet Jews and a decrease in the issuance of exit permits to those who have asked to leave the Soviet Union, and

WHEREAS the release of courageous Anatoly Shcharansky, after serving nine years of a thirteen year sentence, has been the only recent source of encouragement to all involved in the struggle of the Soviet Jews, and

WHEREAS the CCAR continues to emphasize and publicize the plight of Soviet Jews,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that with all fervor, the CCAR calls upon the United States government to continue its actions on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and upon the President to work for the establishment of a political climate which will make the Soviet government amenable to letting our people go.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CCAR expresses its deep appreciation to President Ronald Reagan, members of Congress and to all who have worked to secure the release of Anatoly Shcharansky.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we applaud the efforts of those of our colleagues who have performed an act of civil disobedience by demonstrating before the Soviet Embassy, among them the President of the CCAR and the Chairman of the Soviet Jewry Committee, as well as our colleague, Bruce Kahn, who, with four other Conservative and Reconstructionist colleagues, served a prison sentence in order to demonstrate solidarity with the Jews of Russia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the members of the CCAR to renew their efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry by

1. continuing to create synagogue action programs which focus on the plight of Soviet Jewry and aim toward the performance of the mitzvah of Pidyon Shvuim.
2. arranging travel to the Soviet Union for the purpose of bringing hope and cheer to refusenik families who wish to leave, and to teach Torah to those who will remain behind but are without the instructors or courses that those living in freedom take for granted. We urge those CCAR regions which have not yet arranged a travel program, whereby each year several colleagues from the region travel to the Soviet Union, to do so immediately.
3. demonstrating on behalf of Soviet Jewry and risking arrest, where indicated, in order to identify with the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews whose lives are made so difficult because they wish to live freely as Jews.
4. encouraging twinning between an American Bar/Bat Mitzvah and a Soviet child who is not free to celebrate this signal life-cycle occasion.

NICARAGUA

(Adopted at the 97th Annual Convention of the Central Conference  
of American Rabbis, June 26-July 1, 1986, Snowmass, Colorado)

WHEREAS, the CCAR is deeply concerned that the critical situation in Nicaragua continues to impoverish and destroy the people of that nation, and

WHEREAS, the continued support of the "contras" by the President of the United States and his advisors brings our country dangerously close to military involvement in Nicaragua, and

WHEREAS, at the same time we take note of the fact that the Sandinista government threatens Jewish and American liberal values, including that of a free press, and

WHEREAS, Sandinista ties with the PLO and other terrorist organizations undermine the democratic processes in other nations, and

WHEREAS, the ideals of the Nicaraguan revolution have been betrayed by the Sandinista government with the Meskito Indians having been persecuted by the government, the growing restrictions placed on the Catholic Church, the closing of the opposition press, and the dissolution of the Nicaraguan Jewish community, and

WHEREAS the House of Representatives has recently authorized 100 million dollars of aid to the "contras," 70 million of which is specifically earmarked for military purposes, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the CCAR hereby condemns the oppressive and anti-religious measures of the present government of Nicaragua.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCAR urge the United States to normalize relations with the elected government of Nicaragua in order to encourage the development of human rights in that country. Such attempts at normalizing relations should be accompanied by trade and economic aid, as is practiced by a number of western European countries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCAR strongly encourage the US government to support the Contradora leadership and Nicaraguan government in direct talks to mediate and resolve those differences that inhibit peaceful negotiations between these rival groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CCAR voice its displeasure at the decision of the House of Representatives to aid the "Contras." The CCAR views this aid as an act of belligerence against another sovereign state, and we urge the US government to cease providing funds and materials for the military activities of the "contras."