

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/Korkala
Box: 30

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/>

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/22/83

John:

Here's the draft. I tried to keep it simple. Obviously, our file includes more elaborate notes of telephone conversations -- but the House Minority Leader's office advised that we do not have to reveal personal notes taken -- only written correspondence.

Note that Jim did place a call to the State Department personally and also personally spoke to Mrs. Korkala regarding the case once.

Any questions, please call me at 6676.

Thanks.

PAM -
OKAY WITH
NOTED CHANGES

John

Colonial Park - Box 235

Raylectown, Pa. 15901

Sept. 13, 1953

The Honorable James K. Coyne
The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Coyne:-

I am writing to request that
the file on my son, Gary
Korkala be sent to me, as
we need some of the information
therein for Gary's trial.

I would appreciate it if this
could be sent as soon as
possible.

Thank you once again for
your help when I asked for
same.

Sincerely,

Marion M. Korkala

(Mrs. George V. Korkala)

PLAIN PAPER -
NOT WHITE HOUSE
STATIONERY

DRAFT REPLY

September 22, 1983

Dear Mrs. Korkala:

*from my
Congressional files*

As per your recent request, I enclose copies of correspondence we exchanged in 1981, during my term as a Member of Congress.

In addition, you asked if it would be possible to establish the dates you telephoned my Congressional office for assistance. You initially telephoned my Washington office on December 15, 1981. On that day, I telephoned the State Department in an effort to determine your son's fate and relayed the information to you in a separate telephone conversation that day.

On December 18, you again telephoned our Washington Congressional office asking that we contact your daughter-in-law, Donna Korkala. One of my staff assistants telephoned your daughter-in-law that day. By letter on December 18, (copies enclosed) officials at the U.S. Department of State were requested to keep me informed of any developments in this case.

You again telephoned my Washington office on December 29 and my staff assistant contacted the Department of State on that date requesting a status report. The information was relayed to you by phone on the 29th. On January 5, you telephoned the Doylestown office advising us that Gary was alive.

Congressional action on this file ceased after this information was relayed.

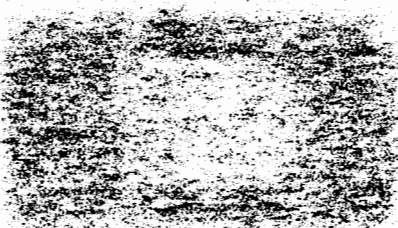
Sincerely,

JAMES K. COYNE

~~Special Assistant to the President~~
~~Office of Private Sector Initiatives.~~

ALL WHITE
HOUSE FILES
95-2007
1-20-79
WHITE HOUSE
BUSINESS

Mrs. Marion M. Korkala
Colonial Park, Box 238
Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901



December 18, 1981

Secretary Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Department of the State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Haig:

I am writing at the request of my constituent, Mrs. Marion Korkala, Colonial Park, Box 238, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, whose son, Gary Korkala, was kidnapped in Syria.

As you know, the abduction of Gary Korkala is presently under the investigation of the State Department. I have personally conferred with Mr. Tom Chace in the Security Department who has briefed me of the actions taken to date. In addition, he has assured me of this agency's intent to keep Mr. Korkala's family here in the United States fully updated as to the State Department's progress in this investigation.

Understandably, the circumstances surrounding this case are clearly sensitive in nature. However, Gary's wife and mother are anxious about his health and welfare and they have asked me to assist them. Accordingly, I would like to be kept fully informed of all the developments concerning his fate.

I look forward to working with you in the future so that we may fully respond to the family's concerns. Thank you for your cooperation on behalf of my constituent.

Sincerely,

James K. Coyne
Member of Congress

JKC/np

December 18, 1981

Mrs. Anne Covington
Citizens Emergency Center
Department of the State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mrs. Covington:

At the suggestion of Mr. Tom Chace of the State Department, I am writing to request your assistance. Enclosed is a copy of my recent correspondence to Secretary Alexander Haig, concerning the abduction of Gary Korkala.

In a recent communication with Gary's wife, Mrs. Donna Korkala, Mrs. Korkala informed me that both Mr. Chace and Mrs. Korkala herself, are aware of the identity of one of the alleged abductors. However, Mrs. Korkala's attempts to correspond with this person in Syria have proved futile, as she sent several telex messages in which they were responded to evasively. Inasmuch as both Gary's mother and his wife are understandably concerned about his welfare, I would appreciate your further assistance in this matter, and notification of all action taken with regard to my constituent's son.

Thank you for your cooperation and concern on behalf of Gary Korkala. I look forward to receiving your reply in my Washington office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

James E. Coyne
Member of Congress

JKC/np

December 18, 1981

Mr. Tom Chace
Attention: PVB A/SI/PSI/I
Department of the State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Chace:

This is in further reference to our communication concerning the abduction of Mr. Gary Korkala.

Enclosed is a copy of my correspondence to Secretary Alexander Haig. Again, I would like to thank you for your efforts on behalf of Mr. Korkala. Notification of any action taken by your agency will be greatly appreciated so that I may be fully responsive to my constituent, Mrs. Korkala. I hope that we can continue to work together in the future to resolve this matter to the satisfaction of all concerned parties.

Sincerely,

James K. Coyne
Member of Congress

JKC/np

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: George Gregory Korkala

You will recall that I raised matters concerning Mr. Korkala at last Thursday's staff meeting. Korkala is awaiting trial in United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York for his alleged arms smuggling activities with E. Wilson. While a Congressman, Jim Coyne tried to assist Korkala's mother and wife in obtaining information about Korkala's safety in the wake of a story - presumably apochryphal - that Korkala had been kidnapped. Korkala wrote Coyne in April, trying to find out why he had not been given a desired opportunity to testify before Congressional committees. Coyne did not reply, and Korkala wrote again in June. On July 29, Coyne referred the matter to us. We have been holding the matter because of advice from Coyne's staff of imminent developments in the form of a request from Mrs. Korkala.

Mrs. Korkala has now asked Coyne for her Congressional file and, as we discussed at Thursday's meeting, that has been provided to her. To tie up the loose ends, I recommend sending the two Korkala letters to Justice, and have prepared a transmittal memorandum.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR EDWARD C. SCHMULTS
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *Orig. signed by FFF*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: George Gregory Korkala

The attached letters from George Gregory Korkala, who is awaiting trial in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, were sent to James Coyne. Mr. Coyne and his staff had performed constituent services for Mr. Korkala's mother and wife during Coyne's service as a Member of Congress. We have not responded to the letters, and transmit them to you for whatever action, if any, is appropriate.

Attachment

FFF:JGR:aea 9/27/83

cc: FFFielding
JGRoberts
Subj.
Chron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*

SUBJECT: George Gregory Korkala

You will recall that I raised matters concerning Mr. Korkala at last Thursday's staff meeting. Korkala is awaiting trial in United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York for his alleged arms smuggling activities with E. Wilson. While a Congressman, Jim Coyne tried to assist Korkala's mother and wife in obtaining information about Korkala's safety in the wake of a story - presumably apochryphal - that Korkala had been kidnapped. Korkala wrote Coyne in April, trying to find out why he had not been given a desired opportunity to testify before Congressional committees. Coyne did not reply, and Korkala wrote again in June. On July 29, Coyne referred the matter to us. We have been holding the matter because of advice from Coyne's staff of imminent developments in the form of a request from Mrs. Korkala.

Mrs. Korkala has now asked Coyne for her Congressional file and, as we discussed at Thursday's meeting, that has been provided to her. To tie up the loose ends, I recommend sending the two Korkala letters to Justice, and have prepared a transmittal memorandum.

Attachment

*I have signed, with
the usual understanding
that Coyne is no
longer duty of this
issue. > 9/27*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR EDWARD C. SCHMULTS
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: George Gregory Korkala

The attached letters from George Gregory Korkala, who is awaiting trial in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, were sent to James Coyne. Mr. Coyne and his staff had performed constituent services for Mr. Korkala's mother and wife during Coyne's service as a Member of Congress. We have not responded to the letters, and transmit them to you for whatever action, if any, is appropriate.

Attachment

FFF:JGR:aea 9/27/83

cc: FFFielding
JGRoberts
Subj.
Chron

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

FC033

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

Name of Correspondent: George Gregory Korkala

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

Subject: Desires to testify before Congressional Intelligence Committees

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>CU4011</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>DD 83108103</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>CU4118</u>	Referral Note: <u>AD DD 83108103</u>			<u>S</u>	<u>83108113</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 DD</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

- 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: Jul 21 83 James Coyne memo to JFF. attached

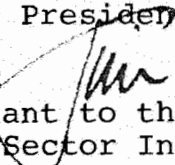
Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OE0B).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: FRED F. FIELDING
Counsel to the President

FROM: JAMES K. COYNE 
Special Assistant to the President
for Private Sector Initiatives

SUBJECT: Request for Assistance

Attached is correspondence I received from Gary Korkala concerning his desire to testify before Congressional Intelligence Committees. Due to the sensitive nature of this case, I feel that it would be more appropriate for your office to respond to his concerns.

By way of background, Mr. Korkala's mother contacted my Congressional office last year to request our assistance in determining Mr. Korkala's fate in Beirut. We enlisted the help of the State Department and basically just tried to comfort Mr. Korkala's wife and mother during the time he was missing.

Thank you for your assistance.

To John
Date 9/15 Time 9:15

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Karen Kuwatt

of _____

Phone 0 6676 ←
Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Please call Pam in
Jim Coyne's ope. re:
some additional info
she has on Korkala
matter - refer^{to} memo
to FFF - 7/29/83. dea
Operator

To John
Date 9/21 Time 1:55

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Pamela Meyer
of PSI

Phone 6676
Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message _____
re: Congressional
case work
legal matter
re: Korkala
dea
Operator