

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

WHORM Subject File Code: JL003-01
Case file Number(s): 196412

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/>

CAH
RE DOS

ID# 196412

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TL 113-11

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 08, 1984

FEB 08 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE LEONARD HORWIN

SUBJECT WRITES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF
MALCOLM KERR IN BEIRUT

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
C A HOWLETT ✓ 99 DOS	ORG	84/02/08	CH	A840208
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	R	84/02/24		A8403187
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS FORMER MAYOR OF BEVERLY HILLS
FORMER U. S. DIPLOMAT

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2501 _____

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

- *****
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION CODES: | *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 * | | | * |
- *****

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8405680 40

Date 3/7/84

For: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane
National Security Council
The White House

Reference:

To: President Reagan From: The Honorable Leonard Horwin
Date: January 31, 1984 Subject: The Assassination of Malcolm
Kerr in Beirut

WH Referral Dated: February 24, 1984 NSC ID# 196412
(if any)

 The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

Action Taken:

- A draft reply is attached.
 A draft reply will be forwarded.
 A translation is attached.
 X An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.
 The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.
 Other.

Remarks:

J. L. Berry
for Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

(Classification)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Leonard Horwin, Esq.
121 South Beverly Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90212

01 31 1984

Dear Mr. Horwin:

The President has asked that the State Department reply to your letter of January 31, 1984, concerning Arab violence in the Middle East. Violence and terrorism are indeed a tragic and all too familiar aspect of that region today, although these evils are by no means limited to the Middle East.

The assassination of Malcolm Kerr and the other violent events to which you referred in your letter are particularly disturbing examples of this phenomenon.

With regard to the question of our support for Israel, I can assure you that the United States is committed to its security and to its qualitative superiority in military capability as a matter of policy.

We believe that, ultimately, the best guarantee of security for Israel and for a reduction of political violence in the region lies in the achievement of a just and lasting peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Of course, there are other causes and sources of tension and violence in the Middle East. But a resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute would contribute greatly to a more stable and peaceful regional environment.

We believe the positions in the President's peace initiative of September 1, 1982 are fair and balanced and provide the only realistic basis for a just and lasting Arab-Israeli settlement.

Jordan, along with Israel, provides the key to a negotiated solution for the West Bank and Gaza. King Hussein has sought a path toward moderation and conciliation. However, Jordanian entry into the peace process has been inhibited by a number of factors, including the absence of necessary support from the moderate Arab states and sharp opposition from Arab rejectinists. With our encouragement, Hussein is continuing to seek the support he needs to begin negotiations with Israel.

Sincerely,

Robert Pelletreau
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near East
and South Asian Affairs

8405680

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

FEBRUARY 24, 1984

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 196412

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JANUARY 31, 1984

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: THE HONORABLE LEONARD HORWIN
121 SOUTH BEVERLY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS CA 90212

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF
MALCOLM KERR IN BEIRUT

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

February 21, 1984

Dear Mr. Horwin:

On behalf of the President, I would like to acknowledge your recent correspondence.

I have forwarded your letter to the appropriate officials at the Department of State for their consideration and direct reply. You should be hearing from them shortly.

I appreciate your bringing your concerns to the attention of the Administration.

Sincerely,

C. A. Howlett
Special Assistant to
the President for
Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Leonard Horwin
Leonard Horwin Law Corporation
121 South Beverly Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90212

CAH:JFCF4
Howlett-1

DOS

LAW OFFICES OF
LEONARD HORWIN LAW CORPORATION
121 SOUTH BEVERLY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90212
(213) 272-7807 OR (213) 275-5132

#196412

January 31, 1984

Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Re: Assassination of Malcolm Kerr in Beirut

Dear Sir:

The assassination of Malcolm Kerr in Beirut, by Shia Arab assassins claiming responsibility, and citing their reason as Professor Kerr's American origin, gives cause for rethinking.

But it is not the rethinking which the assassins would suggest.

This is but the latest outrage, reflecting the grave instability of the Arab World, for reasons which go way beyond any issues between Israel and Arabs.

Kerr was an international scholar, well known for his Arabist and pro-Arab opinions.

The assassins say they shot him to force America and France out of Lebanon. In the same country, very recently, at Tripoli, anti-Arafat PLO Arabs murdered pro-PLO Arabs and vice versa, as their way of settling issues focused by anti-Arafat President Assad of Syria.

Not long before, Christian Falange Arabs murdered PLO Muslim Arabs at two camps in Beirut, and some time before that, PLO Muslim Arabs had murdered thousands of Christian Falange Arabs at Damur and elsewhere -- as their mutual way of settling differences.

Between the two events, President Assad's Bathist Arabs of Syria murdered Muslim Brotherhood Syrian Arabs at Hama in the thousands, as his way of settling differences with the majority Sunni Arabs of his country.

Muslim Brotherhood Arabs of Egypt, not too long ago, murdered anti-religious fanatic President Sadat of Egypt as their way of final settlement.

Honorable Ronald Reagan
January 31, 1984
Page Two

Not so long ago, Shia Arabs of Saudi Arabia seized the holy center of Mecca, and were later executed by the Sunni Moslem government of Saudi Arabia, as their mutual ways of religious piety.

The United States has officially noted on occasion that President Kaddafi of Libya has made a regular practice of assassination, by Libyan Arab terrorists and others, and of threatening assassination of leaders, both in the Sudan and in Egypt, as his way of enforcing Libyan (Kaddafi) interests.

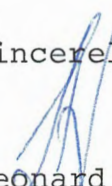
Some while back, but continuing to the present date, Arab President Hussein of Iraq made a surprise attack upon non-Arab Iran, unleashing a mutual holy war between Sunni Arabs of Iraq and Shia non-Arabs of Iran, which has cost enormous casualties on both sides, and threatens European and Japanese oil sources in the Persian Gulf.

I leave unmentioned the tragic Arab Shia policy by assassination, assisted by Syria, of the Bechir Gemayel President and Cabinet of Lebanon, of US personnel at the American Embassy at Beirut, of American Marines, French peace keeping forces, PLO assassinations of American Diplomats in the Sudan, etc., etc.

The point is that instability, violence and assassination is a way of life which has characterized the Arab World. These phenomena are not related to any single dispute, issue or country, nor are they the product of any single one. They are in the nature of the area, which is accustomed to the settlement of issues, and transfer of power, primarily by violence.

The Kerr assassination should give serious pause to those who would extend the area of this violence and instability, for example, by pressuring Israel to admit another Arab State, whether Hussein of Jordan, or PLO, or otherwise, to the West Bank of the Jordan, the Gaza Strip or, in the case of Syria, the Golan Heights -- instead of recognizing that Israel cannot abandon these areas to violence and instability without utmost threat to itself and the Free World.

Sincerely yours,



Leonard Horwin
former US Diplomat
former Mayor of Beverly Hills

LH/gg