The original documents are located in Box C23, folder "Presidential Handwriting, 6/11/1975" of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

JAMES E. CONNOR

The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

-- Abe is an old friend and good one.

Talk to Brent and see about a reply.

Please follow-up with the appropriate action.

cc: Don Rumsfeld **Brent Scowcroft**

WHITE HOUSE Hard March We is an old friend TIL TO BI

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN A



Supreme Court of the State of New York Justices' Chambers Brooklyn 1. N. Y.

May 21, 1975

Gerald R. Ford President of the United States The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President,

Because of our long association, I believe it is unnecessary to convince you that despite my sincere Zionist proclivities, I am an American first. As far back as 1948, though representing an overwhelming Jewish electorate, I dared risk their wrath by publicly condemning as speakers who urged the subordination of our Americanism to our Zionism.

We both adhere to the principle that a strong and viable Israel is in the best interests of both countries, and the sooner a durable peace is established between the Arabs and the Israelis the better the world will be.

For these and many other patent reasons, I urge you to take a firm position with the Arabs and urge them to, as coincident with, if not antecedent thereto, unequivocably recognize the sovereign right of Israel to exist in peace and to agree that any and all changes must be brought about by amicable negotiation.

It is essential that the Arabs now give exidence of their good faith and their desire for permanent peace.

Israel has already done that many times.

In 1950, I joined in urging the State of Israel to unblock frozen Arab funds in Israel as one gesture of good faith. It did so, and was laughed at by the Arabs for doing so.

In 1952, I joined in urging Israel to mermit Arab families to be re-united within Israel as another gesture of good faith. It did so and again was rebuffed by the Arabs.

I unwittingly was responsible for the recall by Egypt of its top diplomat accredited to the United States

(and possibly his liquidation) by convincing him to urge that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel establish an international airport at Eilath with access to and from it, guaranteed to all. The thought was to get the people of the area working and living together. The suggestion had the unofficial approval of the Israeli government with the caveat that the suggestion could originate with the Arabs and be accepted by the Israelis or vice-versa. Nothing came of it.

When we recognized Egypt's seizure of the Suez Ganel it was on its undertaking that the Canal in accord with the original covenant bringing it into existence, that it would always be open to international transit. The agreement was no sooner made than it was broken by prohibiting Israel's use thereof.

The agreement under which we contributed so many millions to reopen the Canal contained the same provision which Egypt threatens to violate.

The last agreement between Egypt and Israel also calls for unimpeded transit of Israel cargo. Sadat has announced that with the opening of the Canal next month, Israel shipping will be barred.

The agreement by Egypt to return dead Israeli bodies has been violated by her insisting that live Egyptian prisoners be returned in exchange for such bodies.

The agreement by Arabs not to advance troops and war materiel during the present stand-still is daily violated by them on all fronts.

The excuse by Jordan for not participating in the Yom Kippur war is now said by her to be non-existent because United States arms will make it possible for her to join with Syria in the next attack on Israel.

The approval by the Arabs of terrorist attacks on innocent men, women and children and the refusal to even attempt to prevent such terrorism is far from any assurance of an honest desire for peace.

When in all history was any country asked to give up occupied territory except as part of a peace treaty?

Mevertheless, Israel has done so not once but many times. There must be an end to such unconscionable demands.

I am not arguing against a final amicable adjustment. I am arguing for a firm position being taken with the Arabs that the time has now come when they must give concrete proof by their conduct that peace is the desired goal.

With warm personal regards and very best wishes, I am

Cordially,

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK JUSTICES' CHAMBERS BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201





Hon. Robert Hartman WHITE HOUSE MAIL RECEPTION & SECURITY Washington, D. C.

