

The original documents are located in Box 130, folder “Lissy, David” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY
BOB GOLDWIN
✓RON NESSEN
BILL BAROODY

FROM: DAVID LISSY 

The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations has placed a seven column ad on the back page of the News in Review of the Sunday New York Times supporting the Administration's position and actions on the UN vote characterizing Zionism as a form of racism.

The ad was placed before the Conference knew of the President's statement.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date

11/24

TO:

Ron Hussen

FROM: DAVID LISSY

✓

FYI

 For Appropriate Action

COMMENTS



OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20420

October 24, 1975

The Honorable
David Lissy
Associate Director
Domestic Council
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Dave:

The NBC Today Show has invited a representative of the VA to participate in a panel discussion between 7:00 and 8:00 A.M. on Veterans Day, October 27 here in NBC's Washington studio.

Since the Administrator plans to be on hand to greet the President at Arlington, Mr. Odell Vaughn, our Deputy Administrator will be representing the agency on the program. Mr. Cooper Holt, Executive Director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Mr. Edward Golembieski, National Director of the American Legion, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, have also been invited and will compose the panel, along with Mr. Vaughn and Tom Pettit, NBC's moderator.

These last few days have been kind of hectic, but I wanted you to have this information so that if your time permits you can tune in.

Sincerely,

EDWIN L. ARNOLD
Executive Assistant
to the Administrator

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN

FROM: DAVID LISSY 

Attached are copies of two telegrams directed to the President in response to the statement released earlier today. I have been told to expect more such messages, and will provide you with copies of those received from major organizations.

cc: Robert Goldwin

Your statement denouncing the proposed United Nations resolution that would characterize Zionism as a form of racism is most welcome to us -- as it should be to all peoples around the world concerned with truth and decency. The American Jewish Committee hopes that your statement will serve to destroy whatever chance this resolution had of passing the General Assembly of the United States. By turning down this resolution, the member-states of the UN would tell the world that they are prepared to restore the UN to its original position of serving world peace, and move away from the hatred and divisiveness that have so characterized it in recent years. We are grateful to you, Mr. President.

Bertram Gold,

Executive Vice President,
American Jewish Committee

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PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD ATTN DAVID LISSY

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC

WE APPLAUD YOUR FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE SCURRILOUS FALSE EQUATION OF ZIONISM WITH RACISM WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS SOCIAL COMMITTEE SEEKS TO FOIST UPON THE UNITED NATIONS. FAR GREATER THAN THE INJURY DONE TO THE JEWISH MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION IS THE GRIEVOUS INJURY TO THE IDEALS OF TRUTH AND FAIRNESS ON WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS WAS FOUNDED. AS A ZIONIST I AM GREATFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR DEFENSE OF THOSE IDEALS. AS AN AMERICAN I AM PROUD

RABBI ARTHUR LELYVELD PRESIDENT CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN

RABBIS

NNNN

FORM 0805 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U.S.A.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DICK CHENEY
RON NESSEN ✓
BOB GOLDWIN
BILL BAROODY

FROM:

DAVID LISS 

SUBJECT:

President's Statement on
UN Vote on Zionism/Racism

I thought you would be interested to know that as of this morning we have received over 200 messages from organizations and individuals in support of the Administration's position and the President's statement. In addition, Max Fisher called and asked that I relay his personal pleasure.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 10, 1976

1976 MAY 10 PM 3 51

MEMORANDUM FOR: BILL NICHOLSON
FROM: DAVID LISSY *[Signature]*
SUBJECT: American Jewish Press Association
meeting in Philadelphia May 25-28

A session with the American Jewish Press Association was one of the ideas Max Fisher and I discussed with the President in our meeting of April 20. I have subsequently discussed it with Margita White.

We should schedule a full day's briefing for the American Jewish Press Association in the next few weeks. The way we do it is very important. Four years ago the briefing was poorly handled and left a sour after taste that little was gained from it.

It is important that Max Fisher and I be involved in the scheduling of the briefing and the arrangements for it.

cc: Ron Nessen
Margita White

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 10

NOTE FOR: *Bill Nelson*

FROM : RON NESSEN

- 1- The Jewish leadership would like to see the President either in Philadelphia, or Washington
- 2- I recommend against.
It is too close to Calif, Ohio and N.J. primaries to risk a possible Jewish issue flap.

RHN



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: WILLIAM NICHOLSON *W W N*
SUBJECT: American Jewish Press Association
 meeting in Philadelphia May 25-28

Regarding the attached, is this an invitation to the President to meet with the Association in Philadelphia May 25-28 OR are they requesting a meeting with the President in Washington since it is close to Philadelphia?

Would you recommend that the President participate in a briefing with members of the American Jewish Press Association following their meeting in Philadelphia?

Thank you.

cc: David Lissy - fyi
 Jeanne Davis - fyi

Texas Jewish Post
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MEMBER
AMERICAN JEWISH PRESS ASSOCIATION
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE SOUTHWEST'S LEADING ENGLISH JEWISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
READ BY MORE THAN 20,000 EACH WEEK

April 21, 1976

Mr. Ron Nesson
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ron:

Per the President's suggestion with regard to a possible meeting with editors and publishers of the American Jewish Press Association, I spoke with Max Fisher last week.

Max says he mentioned this about three weeks ago and will pursue it. ||

The American Jewish Press will have a convention meeting in Philadelphia from May 25 - 28 and the editors and publishers will all be close to Washington.

However, if another date is more convenient, please let me know

Sincerely yours,

JIMMY WISCH, PUBLISHER
TEXAS JEWISH POST

JAW:r

Please reply:
P.O. Box 742
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

May 18, 1976

Dear Mr. Wisch:

Thank you for your letter of April 21 to Ron Nessen advising that the American Jewish Press Association will meet in Philadelphia May 25 through 28. We have been holding your letter for consideration with the hope that it would be possible for the President to address this meeting in Philadelphia or to invite Association members to the White House either prior to or following the Philadelphia meeting. Regrettably, however, as the President's schedule has developed it will not be possible to add an appearance before the Association to his May calendar.

In your letter you suggested that a meeting with the editors and publishers could be scheduled at another, more convenient date. We will continue to carry your request forward and will be in contact again concerning a mutually agreeable time.

With best wishes for a most successful and interesting conference,

Sincerely,

William W. Nicholson
Director
Scheduling Office

Mr. Jimmy Wisch
Publisher
Texas Jewish Post
Post Office Box 742
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

WWNLMFW:s

Route thru Margita White and Ron Nessen before dispatch

cc: ~~Ron Nessen~~ with file - fyl

cc: Margita White with copy of file - for follow-up

cc: David Lissy - fyl



File

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON NESSEN
FROM: DAVID LISS *DL*

Per our conversation attached are:

- 1) The President's letter
- 2) The ADL telegram
- 3) Carter's telegram to the ADL
- 4) Washington Star story

Carter sent his telegram unsolicited, on May 27.
Then the ADL sent telegrams to the other candidates.

Reagan has not responded.

Attachments

cc: Agnes Waldron

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 22, 1976

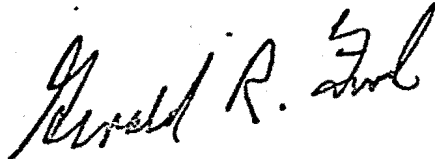
Dear Mr. Graubard:

In your telegram you asked for my reaction to Mr. Agnew's recent public remarks.

I believe those remarks are wrong, both substantively and morally, and they struck me as an unsavory footnote to a chapter in our history that would best remain closed.

Instead of dwelling upon the past, I would prefer to look to the future and to determine ways that we can reduce bigotry in the world and secure a just and lasting peace. Your organization has always been in the forefront of that effort, and I want to do everything I can as President to ensure that, working together, we can be successful.

With sincere best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text of the letter.

Mr. Seymour Graubard
National Chairman
Anti-Defamation League
315 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10016

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PMS MR DAVID LISSY, DLR

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TELEGRAM WHICH WE HAVE JUST SENT TO THE
PRESIDENT

PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY NATIONAL LEADERS CONDEMNING
ANTI JEWISH COMMENTS MADE BY SPIRO AGNEW ON NATIONAL TELEVISION AND
IN THE NATIONAL PRESS. AS AN AGENCY DEDICATED FOR 63 YEARS TO
COMBATING BIGOTRY AND ANTISEMITISM THE ANTI DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF
B'NAI B'RITH URGENTLY REQUESTS THAT IN YOUR CAPACITY AS THE
PRESIDENT YOU MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT MR AGNEW'S REMARKS WHICH WE MAY
MAKE PUBLIC

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COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM SENT TO ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES
SEYMOUR GRAUBARD NATIONAL CHAIRMAN BENJAMIN R EPSTEIN NATIONAL
DIRECTOR ANTI DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH 315 LEXINGTON
AVE NEW YORK NY 10016
NNNN

BBB256(1757)(2-054900E148)PD 05/27/76 1756

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4048977106 IDMT ATLANTA GA 528 05-27 0556P EST

FMS BENJAMIN EPSTEIN, DLR ASAP, DLR

COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL 138 ST JAMES AVE

BOSTON MA 02116

DEAR MR EPSTEIN

I AM TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE TO YOU, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED AND FOREMOST HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND A GROUP PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH ANTI-SEMITISM.

I WANTED TO SHARE MY CONCERN WITH YOU ABOUT THE FALSE, MALICIOUS, ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS WHICH HAVE COME TO MY ATTENTION, RECENTLY MADE BY FORMER VICE PRESIDENT SPIRO AGNEW, IN A NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW AND ON THE NBC "TODAY" SHOW.

MR AGNEW, WHO ONCE OCCUPIED THE SECOND HIGHEST ELECTED POSITION IN

24-1201 (78-00)

THIS NATION, STATED ON NATIONAL TELEVISION THAT "I DO FEEL THE ZIONIST INFLUENCES IN THE UNITED STATES ARE DRAGGING THE U S INTO A RATHER DISORGANIZED APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM". MR AGNEW ALSO ATTACKED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "ISRAELI IMPERIALISM", AND ACCUSED THE AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA OF PANDERING TO THE "ZIONIST CAUSE".

HIS STATEMENTS COULD NOT BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

JEWISH AMERICANS HAVE ADDED AN IMMEASURABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNTRY IN EVERY FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ENDEAVOR. THEY ARE AS LOYAL TO AMERICA AS ANY OTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE DEDICATION OF MANY AMERICAN JEWS TO THE PRESERVATION OF A JEWISH HOMELAND IS NOT ONLY UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT COMMENDABLE IN LIGHT OF THE CENTURIES OF DISCRIMINATION AND PERSECUTION.

AS I SAID IN MY ADDRESS ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN NEW YORK CITY ON APRIL

1, 1976: "FOR 2,000 YEARS, THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN CENTURY AFTER CENTURY, IN COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY, HAD TO WITHSTAND PROPAGANDA, ATTEMPTS AT FORCED CONVERSION, DISCRIMINATION, POGROMS, AND DEATH, UNTIL THE ULTIMATE HORROR OF THE HOLOCAUST. SURELY THE JEWISH PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED TO ONE PLACE ON THIS EARTH WHERE THEY CAN HAVE THEIR OWN STATE, ONE GIVEN TO THEM FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL."

THE PRESERVATION OF A STRONG AND VIABLE STATE OF ISRAEL IS NOT ONLY IN ISRAEL'S INTERESTS AND IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD JEWRY, IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES AS WELL. ISRAEL IS AN OASIS OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. TO ACCUSE ISRAEL OF "IMPERIALISM" IS A TERRIBLE DISTORTION AND SMACKS MORE OF AN ACCUSATION WE ARE USED TO HEARING FROM THE SOVIET UNION THAN A STATEMENT FROM A PROMINENT AMERICAN.

IT IS INDEED FORTUNATE FOR THIS COUNTRY THAT SPIRO AGNEW IS SIMPLY

BP-1201 (RS-00)

WRITING NOVELS AND NOT STILL A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM THE PRESIDENCY. IN FACT, BUT FOR HIS OWN RESIGNATION, MR AGNEW WOULD NOW BE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY STATING ON THE "TODAY" SHOW THAT JEWS HAVE TOO GREAT AN INFLUENCE OVER THE PRESS, HE IS NOT ONLY POISONING THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN THIS COUNTRY WITH AN ACCUSATION THAT IS DEMONSTRABLY FALSE, HE IS SHIFTING ATTENTION FOR THE CAUSE OF HIS OWN PERSONAL DOWNFALL FROM WHERE IT SHOULD BE FOCUSED -- NOT THE AMERICAN PRESS, BUT THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUSTICE. MR AGNEW SHOULD NOT TAKE OUT HIS FRUSTRATION ON THE RELIGIOUS GROUP WHICH ALL TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST HAS BEEN THE SCAPEGOAT.

I HOPE THAT THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE STRONG STEPS TO CORRECT MISCONCEPTIONS AND TO ROOT OUT THE LAST VESTIGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER DISCRIMINATION.



western union

Telegram

VERY TRULY YOURS

JIMMY CARTER

NNNN

SF-1201 (RS-88)

Carter Raps Agnew *Washington Star 5.29.76* On Anti-Semitism

Democratic presidential contender Jimmy Carter has accused former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew of having made "false, malicious anti-Semitic remarks" during recent interviews on the NBC-TV Today show and in Newsweek.

"By stating on the Today show that Jews have too much influence over the press, he (Agnew) is not only poisoning the political atmosphere in this country with an accusation that is demonstrably false," Carter wrote, "he is shifting attention for the cause of his personal downfall from where it should be focused — not the American press, but the American system of justice.

"Mr. Agnew should not

take out his frustration on the religious group which all too often in the past has been the scapegoat."

Carter's remarks were in a letter to officials of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish group which Carter urged to "continue to take steps . . . to root out the last vestiges of anti-Semitism." An ADL spokesman here said the organization issued the letter as a press release yesterday without consulting Carter or his campaign aides.

Calling Israel "an oasis of democracy and freedom in the Middle East," the former Georgia governor stated that to accuse Israel of imperialistic actions — as Agnew did, for example, in an interview in last Sunday's Washington Star — is "a terrible distortion and smacks more of an accusation we are used to hearing from the Soviet Union than a statement from a prominent American."

Agnew, on his part, has repeatedly denied that his remarks contain any bigotry, and accused the American Jewish community of being overly sensitive to criticism. A business associate of his said late yesterday he had left town for the weekend.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CAVANAUGH
RON NESSEN

FROM:

DAVID LISS 

The reaction from the people and the voters to the President's stops in Brooklyn has been beyond expectation. We are already getting reports of people at the meeting with the President who went out and publicly endorsed him last night. (In fact the two rabbis I took on one of the press buses chose that as an opportunity to endorse the President.)

There is a strong sense that the President cared enough to come. In particular, his handling of the questions at the meeting of the leaders was superb.

There is considerable community embarrassment at the heckling which was from JDL and SOIL--two very fringe groups. The press reporting of the heckling plays it way out of proportion. It looked to me as if there were 12-15 hecklers at most, but they were up front.

The turn-out in Boro Park, the second stop, was excellent. Some of the stories say the crowd was not wildly enthusiastic--very true, but that misses the point. In a small area with 80,000-100,000 Orthodox Jews, 25,000 were out on the street. They gave the President a warm welcome and the word back through the community grapevine is all favorable.

These two communities are generally about 5-1 Democratic. The President did well yesterday and should cut way into that margin.

The Jewish press appears to be giving us good coverage. The PFC is mailing the President's speech to over 4,000 Jewish leaders around the country.

cc:B. Nicholson, J. Carlson, T. O'Donnell, M. Earl

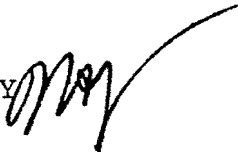
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 23, 1976

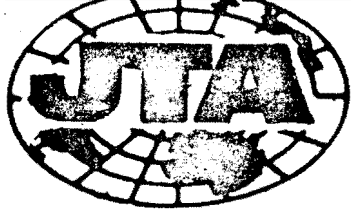
MEMORANDUM FOR:

BRENT SCOWCROFT
JIM CAVANAUGH
RON NESSEN
ALAN WOODS

FROM:

DAVID LISSY 

We got some fairly decent follow up coverage on the Brown story from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.
(See attachment).



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Thursday, October 21, 1976

No. 201

FORD, KISSINGER REAFFIRM U.S. COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL IN WAKE OF BROWN'S STATEMENT ABOUT ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 20 (JTA)--President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger both re-affirmed yesterday that they considered America's strong commitment to Israel to be in the best interests of this country. Their assertions came in the wake of the storm raised by the remark of Gen. George S. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that Israel was a military "burden" to the United States.

A White House statement, which did not refer directly to Brown, said: "The President believes the relationship between the United States and Israel is based on strong mutual political, economic and military ties. A strong and secure Israel is strategically important to the global strategy of the United States."

Kissinger, departing from his prepared text in an address to the 50th anniversary dinner of the Synagogue Council of America here, took direct issue with the Joint Chiefs chairman. "In our joint efforts we consider Israel not as a burden but as a strong asset, not as a liability, but as a staunch bastion of democracy," Kissinger told the predominantly Jewish audience. (See related Kissinger story P.2.)

Goldwater Agrees With Brown

In Chicago, meanwhile, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R, Ariz.) deviated from the position taken by most of his Senate colleagues by making a strong statement in support of Brown. Goldwater, who has in the past supported Israel on most issues told the annual fall meeting of the Inland Daily Press Association that he shared Brown's view that Israel was a military burden.

"I agree with him. We can't continue to give any country equipment from our inventory and not deplete our own war machine," Goldwater said. The conservative Republican added, "Israel has gotten everything she ever wanted, in some categories more than she can use." He said it was "all right" with him "if we give Israel \$2 billion" (in equipment) but "then let's buy \$2 billion for ourselves. Unless we regain our military superiority, the only choice can be nuclear war or surrender." Goldwater told his audience that that was, in effect, what Brown was trying to say.

FORD: ISRAEL NOT A MILITARY BURDEN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (JTA)--President Ford said at a news conference today that "Israel is not a military burden to the United States because of actions of the Ford Administration." He made that statement in response to a question related to the remark by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. George S. Brown, that Israel was a military "burden" on the U.S.

Ford, saying he welcomed the question, declared that "the U.S. is dedicated to the security and survival of Israel" which he described as "a democratic state in an area where democracy does not flourish." He observed that "You have to look at the broad picture" in discussing the question of weapons for Israel. He said that during the Yom Kippur War the U.S. came "immedi-

ately" to Israel's assistance and drew down from its military stocks in Europe. "We have made it (the depletion) up but it was a burden to the U.S.," Ford said.

He added that "from 1974 to the present"--the tenure of his Presidency--the Ford Administration either granted or sold \$2.5 billion in military equipment to Israel. "The net result is that Israel is stronger than before the Yom Kippur War and so today Israel is not a military burden to the U.S. because of actions of the Ford Administration."

The President referred to Israel as a strong ally and said the U.S. has "many firm and fine ties with the people and the government of Israel."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 10/27/76

TO: RON NESSEN

FROM: DAVID LISSY

The attached from the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent is an example of the coverage from the meeting with the Jewish Press Association.



October 22, 1976

Maala

JEWISH EXPONENT

3

How Ford Views Israel Now

By FRANK F. WUNDOHL
EDITOR JEWISH EXPONENT

[1976]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 12.31

TO: *Ron Kessen*

FROM: DAVID LISSY

*I just read the
Stevenson piece in the 12/27
New Yorker and wanted you
to know I thought you really
looked good in it - a touch
of class.*

DL

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