

**The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “Syria - President Asad” of the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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3216 1A

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

Following the resumption of full diplomatic relations between our nations, I am very pleased to send Richard W. Murphy as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Syrian Arab Republic and my personal representative to you. I am confident that our exchange of Ambassadors will strengthen further the relations between our nations, building upon the close consultations between our two Governments in months past. I am particularly pleased to be sending Ambassador Murphy, a man of long experience in the Arab world, to this important assignment. He has my full confidence.

I am aware how much President Nixon valued his visit to Damascus and the opportunity it gave to exchange views with you. I am deeply gratified by the progress which our two countries have made toward better mutual understanding and toward building a durable relationship for the future. Ambassador Murphy will carry our efforts forward and I assure you that the United States will do everything possible to promote friendly and constructive ties with your Government.

I also want to reiterate to you, Mr. President, that the United States remains firm in its commitment to assist the parties in achieving a just and lasting peace



in the Middle East. In that regard, the United States looks forward to working closely with Syria in the period ahead toward the achievement of this great goal.

I have asked Ambassador Murphy, in carrying this letter to you, to convey my personal best wishes for the continued health and well being of you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

*Gerald R. Ford*

His Excellency  
Hafez al-Asad  
President of the Syrian Arab Republic  
Damascus



*Hand carried the  
msg. to the President  
on 8-14-74 @ 9:50 Am.*

IC D

MEMORANDUM

ACTION  
3216 [Redo]

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET/NODIS ATTACHMENT

August 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

ROSEMARY NIEHUSS

SUBJECT:

Presidential Letter to President Asad  
of Syria for Delivery by Ambassador  
Murphy

Ambassador Murphy is still in Washington but plans to depart for Syria after meeting with you. [We understand that the meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, at 12 noon.] He would like to carry a Presidential letter of introduction and greetings to President Asad. State has thus, in the attached, resubmitted this previously approved recommendation and has prepared a new letter for signature by President Ford. It is consistent with the spirit of President Ford's message to President Asad of August 9. The purpose is to introduce Ambassador Murphy and to maintain a sense of continuity and personal interest at the Presidential level. In that regard, it explicitly refers to President Nixon's visit to Damascus.

RECOMMENDATION: That you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President recommending he sign a letter to President Asad for delivery by Ambassador Murphy when he presents his credentials in Damascus. (Text cleared with the Speechwriter's office.)

SECRET/NODIS ATTACHMENT



## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

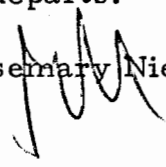
August 12, 1974

FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

Per your instruction, attached is a revised package recommending a letter from President Ford to President Asad of Syria for delivery by Ambassador Murphy. I have coordinated with State (Hal) which provided a new text for the Presidential letter.

On timing, I gather that Ambassador Murphy would like to depart for Syria as soon as possible (with the letter, if approved) after meeting with Secretary Kissinger. That meeting is now scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, at noon. In any event, Ambassador Murphy has been staying in touch in the event of getting the final letter before he departs.

Rosemary Niehuss



MEMORANDUM

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS  
ATTACHMENTACTION  
August 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

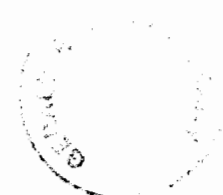
SUBJECT: Letter to President Asad of Syria  
for Delivery by Ambassador Murphy

Richard W. Murphy has been confirmed as the first United States Ambassador to Syria since the break in relations in 1967. This follows the joint Presidential announcement in Damascus on June 16 of the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Syria and agreement to an early exchange of ambassadors. Syrian Ambassador-Designate Kabbani has arrived in Washington and will be presenting his credentials to you in the near future.

Ambassador Murphy's departure for Syria would be an appropriate occasion for you to send a letter to President Asad for delivery during the presentation of credentials ceremony there. The exchange of ambassadors -- after a long hiatus -- is symbolic of progress we have made in strengthening relations with Syria in the context of the broader peace-making process, and a letter from you would provide an opportunity for reaffirming the U.S. commitment to those objectives. It would help promote a sense of continuity, building upon the personal rapport established during President Nixon's visit to Damascus in June and your message to President Asad of August 9 [Tab B].

A suggested letter for your signature -- introducing Ambassador Murphy and reiterating your commitment to the strengthening of bilateral relations and the active involvement of the U.S. in the peace-making process -- is at Tab A.

RECOMMENDATION: That you sign the letter at Tab A to President Asad for delivery by Ambassador Murphy in Damascus.

SECRET/NODIS ATTACHMENT

~~SECRET~~/NODIS

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA

August 9, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

As I take up the office of President of the United States, I am, as one of my first acts, writing you to assure you and other friends of my firm dedication to the policies the United States has been pursuing in its international relations.

The foreign policy of the United States is soundly based on the support of both our major political parties. The principle of continuity in foreign policy has deep roots in the traditions, institutions and national interests of America. No principle will be more central to the conduct of the affairs of the United States under my Administration. I want to pledge to you that I am fully committed to honoring all obligations undertaken by the United States in its relations with your country and with all other nations of the world. I specifically wish to affirm everything told you by President Nixon and Secretary Kissinger.

In particular, I want you to know of my strong commitment to pursue our diplomatic strategy looking toward a just and durable peace in the Middle East with the same vigor that has characterized our efforts over the past nine months. The achievement of peace in the

SECRET/NODIS

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
State Dept. Guidelines  
By WJ, NARA, Date 3/8/04

~~SECRET~~/NODIS --- 2

Middle East will remain one of the highest foreign policy objectives of the United States, and our endeavors to reach that goal will go forward without interruption with the full participation and support of Secretary Kissinger.

Finally, Mr. President, I welcome the historic turn this spring in the relations between Syria and the United States, and I shall do all I can to assure that my government does its share in building on the foundation which has been laid. I look forward to meeting you, and I shall value your views as our diplomatic efforts proceed.

Sincerely, yours,

[Gerald R. Ford]

~~SECRET~~/NODIS





## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 12, 1974

UNCLASSIFIEDMEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSESubject: Letter from the President  
to President Asad

Attached is a draft of a letter to President Asad of Syria for the President's signature which we would propose to have delivered personally by our new Ambassador to Syria, Mr. Richard W. Murphy, on presentation of his credentials to President Asad.

Ambassador Murphy will be our first Ambassador in Damascus since diplomatic relations were broken at the time of the Arab-Israel War in 1967. The decision to resume diplomatic relations and appoint Ambassadors was announced jointly by President Nixon and President Asad during the President's visit to Damascus, June 15-16. This makes it particularly fitting for President Ford to send with Ambassador Murphy a personal letter to President Asad.

Ambassador Murphy plans to depart for Syria in the next few days.

If the President agrees, it is recommended that the signed letter from the President be delivered to the Department by August 13 so that Ambassador Murphy may carry it with him when he leaves Washington for Damascus.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel R. Gammon".

Samuel R. Gammon  
Acting Executive SecretaryAttachment

Draft Letter for President's Signature.

UNCLASSIFIED

Suggested Message

Dear Mr. President:

Following the resumption of full diplomatic relations between our nations, I am very pleased to send Richard W. Murphy as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Syrian Arab Republic and my personal representative to you. I am confident that our exchange of Ambassadors will strengthen further the relations between our nations, building upon the close consultations between our two Governments in months past. I am particularly pleased to be sending Ambassador Murphy, a man of long experience in the Arab world, to this important assignment. He has my full confidence.

I am aware how much President Nixon and Secretary Kissinger have valued their relationship with you. I am deeply gratified by the progress which our two countries have made toward better mutual understanding and toward building a durable relationship for the future. Ambassador Murphy will carry our efforts forward and I assure

His Excellency  
Hafez al-Asad,  
President of the Syrian Arab Republic,  
Damascus.

Department of State

you that the United States will do everything possible to promote friendly and constructive ties with your Government.

I also want to assure you, Mr. President, that the United States remains firm in its commitment to assist the parties in achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. In that regard, the United States looks forward to working closely with Syria in the period ahead toward the achievement of this great goal.

I have asked Ambassador Murphy, in carrying this letter to you, to convey my own personal best wishes for the continued health and well being of you and your family.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

14  
August 12, 1974

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter from the President  
to President Asad

Attached is a draft of a letter to President Asad of Syria for the President's signature which we would propose to have delivered personally by our new Ambassador to Syria, Mr. Richard W. Murphy, on presentation of his credentials to President Asad.

Ambassador Murphy will be our first Ambassador in Damascus since diplomatic relations were broken at the time of the Arab-Israel War in 1967. The decision to resume diplomatic relations and appoint Ambassadors was announced jointly by President Nixon and President Asad during the President's visit to Damascus, June 15-16. This makes it particularly fitting for President Ford to send with Ambassador Murphy a personal letter to President Asad. In addition, a gesture of this sort would be helpful in maintaining and strengthening the personal rapport established by the President with President Asad during their meetings in Damascus.

Ambassador Murphy plans to depart for Syria in the next few days.

If the President agrees, it is recommended that the signed letter from the President be delivered to the Department before August 12 so that Ambassador Murphy may carry it with him when he leaves Washington for Damascus.

Samuel R. Gammon  
Acting Executive Secretary

Attachment

Draft Letter for President's Signature.

Drafted: NEA/ARN:DAKorn:dav Clearances: NEA - Mr. Atherton  
x22670 8/9/74 NEA - Mr. Saunders

UNCLASSIFIED

Suggested Message

Dear Mr. President:

Following the resumption of full diplomatic relations between our nations, I am very pleased to send Richard W. Murphy as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Syrian Arab Republic and my personal representative to you. I am confident that our exchange of Ambassadors will strengthen further the relations between our nations, building upon the close consultations between our two Governments in months past. I am particularly pleased to be sending Ambassador Murphy, a man of long experience in the Arab world, to this important assignment. He has my full confidence.

I am aware how much President Nixon valued his visit to Damascus and the opportunity it gave to exchange views with you. I am deeply gratified by the progress which our two countries have made toward better mutual understanding and toward building a durable relationship for the future. Ambassador Murphy will carry our efforts forward and I assure

His Excellency  
Hafez al-Asad,  
President of the Syrian Arab Republic,  
Damascus.

you that the United States will do everything possible to promote friendly and constructive ties with your Government.

I also want to <sup>reiterate</sup> ~~reaffirm~~ to you, Mr. President, that the United States remains firm in its commitment to assist the parties in achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. In that regard, the United States looks forward to working closely with Syria in the period ahead toward the achievement of this great goal.

I have asked Ambassador Murphy, in carrying this letter to you, to convey my own personal best wishes for the continued health and well being of you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald R. Ford

*ME*  
Drafted: NEA/ARN:DAKorn:dav  
x22670 8/9/74

Clearances: NEA - Mr. Saunders  
NEA - Mr. Atherton

15

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	7403216		
8	12	8	12	13			

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: Kissinger H REFERENCE: \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

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DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_ ST EX SEC \_\_\_\_\_ C EYES ONLY EXDIS

\_\_\_\_\_ S CODEWORD

\_\_\_\_\_ TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: See ltr to Pres signed by Secin for delivery by Capt Richard W. Murphy

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION		ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT					MEMO FOR HAK .....
STAFF SECRETARY					MEMO FOR PRES .....
FAR EAST					REPLY FOR .....
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA					APPROPRIATE ACTION .....
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA					MEMO _____ TO .....
EUROPE / CANADA					RECOMMENDATIONS .....
LATIN AMERICA					JOINT MEMO .....
UNITED NATIONS					REFER TO _____ FOR: .....
ECONOMIC					ANY ACTION NECESSARY? .....
SCIENTIFIC					CONCURRENCE .....
PROGRAM ANALYSIS					DUE DATE: .....
NSC PLANNING					
CONGRESSIONAL					
OCEANS POLICY					
INTELLIGENCE					

*Re-dr*

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
8/12		HAK	X	See to Secin ltr to HAK - <i>HP</i>	
8/14		Pres		HAK handcarried	
8/14		Pres	P	Secin ltr to ASAD	
8/14			C	Pres sigl ltr to ASAD	

NSC/S INSTR

DISPATCH \_\_\_\_\_

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ & DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: LTR DELIVERED TO AMB MURPHY AT STATE FOR FINAL DELIVERY TO ASAD.

CROSS REF W/ \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: X FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

AUG 16 1974

CRT ID: \_\_\_\_\_ SA SF

OPEN \_\_\_\_\_ HP NS

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~~Secret~~ / Sensitive

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

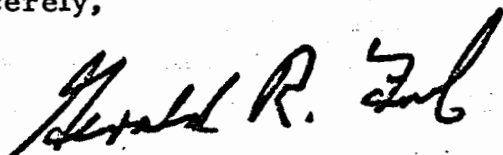
April 16, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

I take the occasion of Ambassador Murphy's return to Damascus to affirm to you directly my determination that the United States will remain fully engaged in the search for a just peace in the Middle East. Ambassador Murphy has been participating in our policy reassessment and is in a position to explain to you our current thinking. Because the issues we are considering are both sensitive and complex, I thought it preferable that he report to you personally and orally on our deliberations during his visit here. I shall for my part welcome your ideas on how we should all proceed to avoid a stalemate.

The Ambassador brings with him my warmest personal regards to you, Mr. President.

Sincerely,



His Excellency  
Hafiz al-Asad  
President of the Syrian  
Arab Republic  
Damascus

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
State Dept. Guidelines  
By ldh, NARA, Date 3/9/04

CLASSIFIED BY HENRY A. YISSINGER  
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5b (3)  
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp to Det

~~SECRET~~





**ACTION COPY**

COPY 1 OF 15 COPIES

Department of State

**TELEGRAM**

~~SECRET~~

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01715 120924Z

CONTROL: 2174Q

RECD: 12 MAY 75  
5:09AM

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ACTION NOOS-00

INFO. OCT-01 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3407

~~SECRET~~ DAMASCUS 1715

NOUIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US  
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ASAD

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ASAD FOR PRESIDENT FORD, AS TRANSLATED BY PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL INTERPRETER, WHICH ASAD HANDED ME MAY 11, SIGNED ORIGINAL (ARABIC) BEING POUCHED.
2. "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT. I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER DATED APRIL 16, 1975 DELIVERED TO ME BY AMBASSADOR MURPHY, AND IN WHICH YOU AFFIRMED YOUR DETERMINATION THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD REMAIN FULLY ENGAGED IN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
3. "AMBASSADOR MURPHY ALSO REPORTED TO ME ORALLY ON THE DELIBERATIONS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON, IN CONNECTION WITH THE REASSESSMENT OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST.
4. "IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST, I WISH TO REAFFIRM ONCE AGAIN WHAT I HAD STATED IN OUR CORRESPONDENCE AND IN MY TALKS WITH YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE DR. KISSINGER, THAT WE IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC SINCERELY DESIRE THAT PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE BE ESTABLISHED IN THIS AREA, TO PUT AN END TO THE TRAGEDIES AND SUFFERINGS OF OUR AREA DURING THE LAST TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS.

~~SECRET~~

Ua 3/9/04

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01715 120924Z

5. "BY ITS ARROGANCE, INSISTENCE ON EXPANSION AND PERSISTENCE IN ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES, ISRAEL HAS THWARTED EFFORTS TO END THESE SUFFERINGS AND BLOCKED THE JUST PEACE WHICH WE SEEK. ISRAEL BASED ITS STAND ON THE WRONG THINKING THAT ARMED FORCE IS THE MEANS TO IMPOSE ITS GREED AND THAT ARMED STRENGTH WILL ALWAYS BE IN ITS FAVOUR.

6. "WE VIEW THE REASSESSMENT OF AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST POSITIVELY. WE BELIEVE THAT AN OBJECTIVE STUDY OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE SITUATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF JUSTICE AS A BASIS FOR A SOLUTION, WILL GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO BRINGING ABOUT A JUST PEACE ELIMINATING CAUSES OF INJUSTICE AND AGGRESSION. THEREBY THE CEASEFIRE WILL NOT BECOME EITHER AN ATTEMPT TO FREEZE THE STATUS QUO, PRESERVING THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT, OR THE FORERUNNER FOR ANOTHER WAR.

7. "IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CERTAINLY CAPABLE OF EXERCISING INFLUENCE ON ISRAEL, TO MAKE HER RESPOND TO THE CALL OF REASON AND TO HEED THE WILL OF WORLD SOCIETY AS REPRESENTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION, WHOSE RESOLUTIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVE PROVIDED A CLEAR GUIDELINE AND DRAWN A WAY TO A JUST SOLUTION.

8. "AS YOU ARE AWARE, MR. PRESIDENT, THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC HAS TAKEN A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD EVERY SINCERE EFFORT AIMING AT ESTABLISHING A JUST PEACE IN THIS AREA WITH ITS MAIN PRE-REQUISITES BEING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN THIS, WE HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY THIS OBJECTIVE AND WE HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THE MEANS IN-AS-MUCH-AS IT LEADS TO THIS GREAT OBJECTIVE.

9. "WE CONSIDER THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN FULL EQUALITY WITH THE OTHER CONCERNED PARTIES, AS THE BEST MEANS TO PROVIDE A WAY TO DEAL WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO REACH A JUST SOLUTION. WE THINK THAT, WHEN THERE IS A WILL

~~SECRET~~

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01715 120924Z

T.  
ACHIEVE THE AIM SOUGHT AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A POSITIVE FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO ITS SUCCESS.

10. "IN-AS-MUCH-AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS THROUGH THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OPENS THE WAY TO JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA, THE TRAGEDY WILL BE ENORMOUS IN ITS CONSEQUENCES TO ALL PARTIES IF ISRAEL CONTINUES TO DEFY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS DEFIANCE OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS WHICH REQUIRE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND RECOGNITION OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE.

11. "PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, MY HIGHEST ESTEEM, SINCERELY, HAFEZ AL-ASAD, PRESIDENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC."  
MURPHY

~~SECRET~~

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

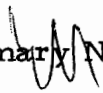
TO NSC/S

May 28

The attached is the signed original of a message from President Asad -- in response to a short letter from the President to Asad which was hand-carried by Ambassador Murphy back to Syria (recall Murphy, Keating, Eilts and Pickering were in the US in April for the policy reassessment) -- which, as State notes, was previously transmitted by telegram and of which we are all aware.

This original is for the President's files. No further action necessary.

Rosemary Niehuss



**NODIS**

~~SECRET/NODIS~~  
(CLASSIFICATION)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

s/s: 7510652

Date: MAY 23 1975

For: Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft  
National Security Council  
The White House

Pursuant to referral dated \_\_\_\_\_, NSC No. \_\_\_\_\_ (if any)  
a copy of which is attached, we are enclosing the following:

       Information copy  
       of direct reply             Translation             Other

       Draft reply for:             President's signature             Other signature

       We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

The attached item, which was sent directly to the Department  
of State, is being forwarded for your attention.

       We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

       A draft reply is attached

       A draft reply will be forwarded

XX A translation is attached

       Other

REMARKS:

THIS LETTER WAS TRANSMITTED VIA DAMASCUS 1715 (SECRET/NODIS)  
ON MAY 12. THE ARABIC TEXT AND TRANSLATION ARE SENT FOR WHITE  
HOUSE RECORDS.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

To: PRESIDENT FORD

From: PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA

Date: 5/11/75

Subject: ARAB/ISRAELI PROBLEM

*Suzanne Butcher*  
for George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary

~~SECRET/NODIS~~  
(CLASSIFICATION)

الجمهورية العربية السورية  
الرئيس

His Excellency Gerald R. Ford

President of the United States of America,

Washington

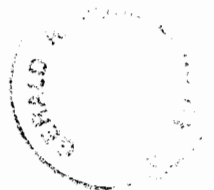
Dear Mr President,

I wish to thank you for your letter dated April 16, 1975 delivered to me by Ambassador Murphy, and in which you affirmed your determination that the United States would remain fully engaged in the search for a just peace in the Middle East.

Ambassador Murphy also reported to me orally on the deliberations that took place during his stay in Washington, in connection with the reassessment of American policy toward the Middle East.

In response to your request, I wish to reaffirm once again what I had stated in our correspondence and in my talks with your Secretary of State Dr Kissinger, that we in the Syrian Arab Republic sincerely desire that peace based on justice be established in this area, to put an end to the tragedies and sufferings of our area during the last twenty seven years.

By its arrogance, insistence on expansion and persistence in its aggression against the Palestinian people and the neighbouring Arab countries, Israel has thwarted efforts to end these sufferings and blocked just peace which we seek. Israel based its stand on the wrong thinking that armed force is the means to impose its greed and that armed strength will always be in its favour.



- 2 -

We positively view the reassessment of American policy in the Middle East. We believe that objective study of the elements of the situation and adoption of justice requirements as a basis for a solution, will greatly contribute to bringing about just peace eliminating causes of injustice and aggression, and thereby ceasefire will not become an attempt to freeze the status quo, and preserve the causes of conflict or the forerunner for another war.

It is our belief that the United States is certainly capable of exercising influence on Israel, to make her respond to the call of reason and heed the will of world society as represented in the United Nations Organization, whose resolutions in the Security Council and the General Assembly have provided a clear guideline and drawn a way to a just solution.

As you are aware, Mr President, the Syrian Arab Republic has taken a positive and constructive attitude toward every sincere effort aiming at establishing just peace in this area with its main pre-requisites of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. In this, we have been guided by this objective and we have been responsive to the means in-as-much-as it leads to this great objective.

We consider Geneva conference, with the participation of the Palestinian people in full equality with the other concerned parties, as the best means which provides a way to deal with all aspects of the situation in order to reach a just solution.



- 3 -

We think that, when there is a will to achieve the aim sought at the Geneva conference, there should be no difficulty in reaching agreement on procedural matters. At the same time, we believe that the expansion of membership in the conference should be viewed as a positive factor contributing to its success.

In-as-mauch-as the implementation of United Nations resolutions through Geneva Conference opens the way to just and lasting peace in the area, the tragedy will be so big in its consequences to all parties if Israel continues to defy the International Community through its defiance to United Nations resolutions which require withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine.

Please accept, Mr President, my highest esteem,

Sincerely,

Hafez Al-Assad

President of the Syrian Arab  
Republic

Damascus May 11, 1975

Unofficial Translation





سيادة الرئيس جيرالد فورد

رئيس الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

واشنطن

عزيزي السيد الرئيس ،،

اشكركم على رسالتكم المؤرخة في ١٦ نيسان ١٩٧٥ التي حملها  
اليّ السفير مورفي ، والتي تؤكدون فيها تصميمكم على ان تبقى مشاركة الولايات المتحدة  
كاملة في السعي للوصول الى سلام عادل في الشرق الاوسط .

وقد استمعت ايضا الى شرح من السفير مورفي قدمه شفاها حول المناقشات  
التي دارت اثناء وجوده في واشنطن ، بصدور اعادة تقييم السياسة الامريكية تجاه  
الشرق الاوسط .

انني استجابة لطلبكم ، أود ان اؤكد ما سبق ان بينته في مراسلات  
جرت بيننا وفي محادثاتي مع وزير خارجيتكم الدكتور كيسينجر ، بأننا في الجمهورية العربية  
السورية نرغب رغبة صادقة في أن يقوم في هذه المنطقة سلام يستند الى العدل ويضع  
حدا للمآسي التي عانت منها منطقتنا خلال السبع والعشرين سنة الماضية .

- ٢ -

وقد حالت اسرائيل بصلفها وباصرارها على التوسع واستمرار عدوانها على الشعب الفلسطيني وعلى البلدان العربية المجاورة ، دون وضع حد لها — هذه المآسي ودون احلال السلام العادل الذي ننشده . ان اسرائيل بنت موقفها على ظن خاطيء بأن القوة المسلحة هي السبيل لفرض اطماعها ، وان هذه القوة يمكن أن تكون دوما لمصلحتها .

اننا ننظر الى اعادة تقييم السياسة الامريكية تجاه الشرق الاوسط نظرة ايجابية ، ونعتقد ان الدراسة الموضوعية لمعطيات الوضع وأخذ متطلبات العدل اساسا نحو الحل سيسهمان اسهاما كبيرا في توفير السلام العادل الذي تزول في ظله عوامل الظلم والعدوان ، ولا يصبح معه توقف اطلاق النار محاولة لتجميد الوضع وابقاء اسباب الصراع ، أو مقدمة لحرب اخرى .

وباعتقادنا ان الولايات المتحدة قادرة حتما على ممارسة تأثير على اسرائيل لحملها على الاستجابة لصوت العقل و ارادة المجتمع الدولي ممثلا في منظمة الامم المتحدة ، التي هيأت بقراراتها في مجلس الامن والجمعية العامة ، دليلا واضحا ورسمت طريقا لحل عادل .

ان الجمهورية العربية السورية اتخذت ، كما تعلمون ايها السيد الرئيس ، موقفا ايجابيا بناء من كل جهد مخلص يهدف الى احلال السلام العادل في هذه المنطقة ، بمقوماته الرئيسية وفي مقدمتها انسحاب اسرائيل من الاراضي العربية المحتلة ، والاعتراف بحقوق شعب فلسطين . وكنا في موقفنا مسترشدين بهذا الهدف ، متجاوبين مع الوسيلة بمقدار ما تحقق الوصول الى هذا الهدف الكبير .

- ٣ -

ونحن نرى ان مؤتمر جنيف الذي يشترك فيه شعب فلسطين كطرف رئيسي وعلى قدم المساواة مع الاطراف المعنية الاخرى ، هو الوسيلة الافضل باعتباره يوفر مجالا لمعالجة كل جوانب الموقف من اجل الوصول الى الحل العادل . ولا نظن انه يجب ان تكون هناك صعوبة في الوصول الى اتفاق حول الامور الاجرائية المتعلقة بالمؤتمر ، اذا ما توفرت نية تحقيق الهدف المرجو من مؤتمر جنيف . ونعتقد ان توسيع عضوية مؤتمر جنيف ينبغي ان ينظر اليه ايجابيا كعامل يسهم في نجاح المؤتمر.

وبمقدار ما سيفتح تنفيذ قرارات الامم المتحدة عبر مؤتمر جنيف السبيل الى سلام عادل ودائم في المنطقة ، بمقدار ما ستكون المأساة كبيرة من حيث نتائجها بحق جميع الاطراف اذا بقيت اسرائيل تتحدى المجتمع الدولي عبر تحديها لقرارات الامم المتحدة التي تقضي بالغاء عن الاراضي العربية المحتلة والاعتراف لشعب فلسطين بحقوقه الثابتة .

وتقبلوا يا سيادة الرئيس وافر الاحترام ،،

حافظ الأسد

رئيس الجمهورية العربية السورية

دمشق في ١٨ ايار ١٩٧٥

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR		
5	23	5	24	9	7503605	

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_ FROM: ASAD, Hafez KISSINGER \_\_\_\_\_ COLBY, W \_\_\_\_\_ SCOWCROFT X SCHLESINGER, J \_\_\_\_\_ DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_ ST EX SEC X

REFERENCE: 7510652

CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE  
 UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT  
 LOU NO FORN NODIS  
 C EYES ONLY EXDIS  
 S CODEWORD  
 TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Translation of ltr to Pres from ASAD of Syria re Arab Israeli problem

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION			REC CY FOP	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION	INFO		
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK ..... ( <u>X</u> )
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES ..... ( )
FAR EAST				REPLY FOR ..... ( )
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION ..... ( )
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA	<u>X</u>			MEMO _____ TO _____ ( )
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS ..... ( )
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO ..... ( )
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ ( )
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? ..... ( )
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE ..... ( )
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: <u>8/05</u>
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL				
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE				

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
<u>5/27</u>		<u>NSC/S</u>		<u>Transfer to Oakley</u>	
<u>5/28</u>	<u>Oakley</u>	<u>NSC/S</u>		<u>Close out &amp; send to Pres. files per Chit. Rosemary</u>	
<u>5/28</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>"C"</u>		<u>NO ACTION REQ PER OAKLEY</u>	

NSC/S INSTR

DISPATCH \_\_\_\_\_

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ & DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY JUN 24 1975 BY ADC

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

CROSS REF W/ \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: X FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

CRT ID: _____	SA _____	SF _____
OPEN _____	HP _____	NS _____
CLOSE _____	WH _____	EP _____
	PA <u>(circled)</u>	DY _____



Department of State

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TELEGRAM

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60  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NSC:RNIEHUSS  
APPROVED BY P:MR. HABIB  
NEA - MR DUBS  
NSC - MR. HOUGHTON (PHONE)  
S/S -O:LRMACFARLANE

003667

0 202355Z JUN 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

~~SECRET~~ STATE 152936

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO ASAD  
REF: SECTO 17005 (CLEARANCE)  
1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD  
TO PRESIDENT ASAD AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I WISH TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR THE EFFORTS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN ENSURING THE SAFE TRANSIT OF THE REMAINS OF OUR DIPLOMATS, AMBASSADOR MELOY AND MR. WARING, THROUGH LEBANON TO DAMASCUS. THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MOST IMPORTANT TO US IN THIS SAD PERIOD AND ESPECIALLY TO THE FAMILIES WHO MOURN FOR THEIR LOST ONES. I AM ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND CLOSE COOPERATION THAT HAS PREVAILED BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT. I WANT IN PARTICULAR TO CONVEY MY THANKS FOR THE HELP AND SOUND ADVICE GIVEN US BY GENERAL SHIHABI, WHO DESPITE THE

~~SECRET~~

6/1 3/9/04

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

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MANY DEMANDS ON HIS TIME MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO AMBAS-  
SADOR MURPHY WHENEVER THE NEED WAS URGENT. I AM CONFIDENT  
THAT THIS PATTERN OF COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE TO CHAR-  
ACTERIZE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS WE  
PURSUE OUR EFFORTS TO BRING A JUST AND LASTING PEACE TO THE  
MIDDLE EAST. WARM REGARDS, GERALD R. FORD. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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EXDIS  
EXDIS  
EXDIS  
EXDIS

~~SECRET~~



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