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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 7

FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

RE: Tree Plantings in Occupied
Territories

Brent,

I would that the attached would interest you with reference to the recent action on a tree planting in the Occupied West Bank of Jordan.

Yamit is one of the controversial Israeli settlements being built in the Sinai. You will note paragraph 4 and especially paragraph 6 that "tree planting, of course, is the traditional sign of permanency here."

This sums up the problem each time a new tree is planted -- and dedicated -- in the Occupied Territories.



Bob Oakley



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 4716

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00912 071156Z

15
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01
INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SAB-01 /082 W
----- 066572

P R 071044Z FEB 75
~~FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV~~
~~TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5553~~
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

no
ah

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TEL AVIV 0912

F.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ACTIVITY AT YAMIT AND RAFAH JUNCTION AREA

REF: TEL AVIV 0010

1. DURING FEB 2 VISIT TO SITE WHERE PROJECTED REGIONAL CENTER OF YAMTI IS TAKING SHAPE, EMBOFFS OBSERVED THAT EXTERNAL CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED ON ALL 165 HOUSING UNITS DESIGNED FOR INITIAL OCCUPANCY. WORK HAS ALSO BEGUN ON INTERIOR. FOUNDATION WORK APPEARS TO BE NEARING COMPLETION ON INITIAL PORTION OF INDUSTRIAL/COMMERICAL COMPLEX, ALTHOUGH NO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HAS YET BEGUN.

2. EMBOFFS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT WITH HANDFUL OF AMERICANS WHO EXPECT TO SETTLE IN YAMIT, ONE OF WHOM IS SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR SOME OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY WITH REMAINDER INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROJECT. ESTIMATES OF WHEN THEY HOPED TO MOVE IN INCLUDED " IN SIX MONTHS" AND " THIS SUMMER", AND WERE ACCOMPANIED BY EXPRESSIONS OF FRUSTRATION AT THEIR

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4.

MR 94-5, #35; State Hr. 4/4/94

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ By let NARA, Date 4/21/94



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00912 071156Z

INABILITY TO HURRY ISRAELI BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES.

3. SETTLERS SAID THEIR GROUP OF ABOUT FIFTY AMERICAN SETTLERS WOULD HAVE AS FIRST RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER MOVING IN OPERATION OF WOODWORK FACTORY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY FOR USE OF IDF SOUTHERN COMMAND, RUSSIAN SETTLERS, ALSO ABOUT FIFTY IN NUMBER, WOULD FIRST SET UP METAL-WORK FACTORY AND THEN PLANNING TO ESTABLISH COMPUTER-SHARING OPERATION LINKED TO COMPUTERS IN U.S. AND DESIGNED TO FUNCTION DURING THEIR DOWNTIME.

4. JERUSALEM POST FEB 5 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE PICTURE SHOWING GROUP OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY FROM TEACHERS COLLEGE IN TEL AVIV PLANTING ONE THOUSAND SAPLINGS" TO HOLD DOWN THE SHIFTING SANDS AT YAMIT. AREA BEING PLANTED APPEARS TO BE JUST INLAND FROM CONSTRUCTION SITE.

5. RE NEW SETTLEMENTS REPORTD TEL AVIV 407, YAMIT SETTLERS CONFIRMED THAT UGDA AND SUKKOT WERE " OVER THERE" (WAVING AWAY FROM COAST) AND THAT THEY BOTH STILL CONSISTED ONLY OF TENT ENCAMPMENTS. CONCERNING POSSIBLE MOVE OF NAHAL SINAI TO NEW SITE EAST OF EL-ARISH, EMOFFS OBSERVED BULLDOZER LEVELING COASTAL DUNES ABOUT 3-4 KMS EAST OF EL-ARISH BUT WERE UNABLE DISCERN PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE JUST BEGUN.

6. COMMENT: AMERICAN SETTLERS WE SPOKE TO AT YAMIT, WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE TYPICAL OF REMAINDER OF INITIAL GROUP OF SETTLERS, SEMED MOTIVATED BY ADVENTURE OF CREATING CITY IN SINAI DESERT. THEY EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT SADAT SHOULD STILL BE TALKING OF RETURN TO 1967 BORDERS WHEN YAMIT WAS ALREADY IN PLACE. ONE SETTLER STATED THAT YAMIT WAS ALREADY NEW " FACT" IN SINAI SITUATION AND THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THIS HAD BEEN GOI INTENTION FROM START. TREE PLANTING OF COURSE, IS TRADITIONAL SIGN OF PERMANENCY HERE. VELIOTES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

pls. Send Oakley
by Bud Kater.
Thank
L.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

564

Bob Oakley
Could you
hold on to
this in case
its needed
someday?
Thanks
Bud

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

January 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: ROBERT B. OAKLEY 

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Handling of the Tree Planted in the Judean Hills -- Occupied West Bank -- in the President's Honor

As you requested, at Tab A are some talking points you could use in a phonecall to the donor of the tree planted in the Judean Hills in the President's honor.

You will want to personalize the greetings as appropriate on the President's behalf. Point 4 on our policy on Presidential messages has been coordinated with Miss Hasek and reflects long-standing guidance on these requests.

Depending on the outcome of your telephone discussion and the appropriateness of a follow-on thank you from the President, I will be glad to prepare a memorandum for the President including a letter for his signature.

RECOMMENDATION: That you phone the donor of the tree, using the talking points at Tab A and that you indicate your preference for a follow-on letter from the President. [Suggested draft at Tab B]

_____ I have called the donor.

_____ Prepare follow-on thank you for the President's signature along the lines of the draft at Tab B.

_____ No further Presidential letter necessary.

TALKING POINTS

1. Greetings. [These will have to be personalized on the President's behalf.]

2. The President has been deeply involved in the visit of Prime Minister Wilson this week and has asked me to call you following your gracious gesture of planting a tree in his honor. [Avoid saying a tree "in Israel."]

3. The President deeply appreciated the spirit which prompted your gesture. You have his warmest personal thanks.

4. We appreciate your interest in a possible message from the President for the tree dedication ceremonies. [NOTE: we do not know if the ceremony will be in the US or in Israel but the following covers both contingencies]

--The long-time policy is that Presidential messages are offered only through official US Government representatives if the event involves a foreign nation or an event abroad.

--At home, the President does send messages to national American groups, including "hyphenated" groups (i. e. an Israeli-US group or Polish-US group) but generally only to national events because of the many requests.

--These guidelines are a matter of policy because of the innumerable requests of the President.

5. IF THE PRESIDENT WILL BE WRITING A THANK-YOU:

Although the President has been busy this week, I know that he will be writing to express his thanks. But we wanted to respond promptly to your request.

6. IF PRESSED ON THE MESSAGE

The President receives so many requests from private Americans and so over the years we have had to develop guidelines restricting messages generally to official or national domestic events.

[Miss Hasek has noted from experience that the positive approach of stating our policy -- point 4 above -- is preferable to getting into a more refined discussion of why we cannot meet every request and what exceptions might have been made]

7. IF US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL OR ISRAEL'S POLICY ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE RAISED

US support for Israel's security and well-being remains strong and the US remains irreversibly committed to the pursuit of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which will ensure Israel's long-term security. We are aware of the complex problems, including the Occupied Territories, but remain confident that the sides can find a solution in negotiation.

Dear _____,

I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in remembering me and for the scroll which you so kindly presented. You have my deep appreciation for your gesture and for your words and good wishes.

In the spirit in which you have made a planting, let us all pray -- and work -- for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and around the world.

With warmest personal wishes,

Sincerely,

A Forest of Ten Thousand Trees
in the Judean Hills near Jerusalem

in Tribute to

The Honorable

GERALD R. FORD

President of the United States

For his unswerving support of the cause of Israel

and the Jewish people

Through the Generosity of

Jacques Amsellem

Jewish National Fund of America

September 12, 1974

Americana Hotel, NYC

/s/Executive Vice President /s/Treasurer /s/President

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

564

January 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: ROBERT B. OAKLEY 
SUBJECT: Planting Trees in Judean Hills--Occupied
West Bank--in the President's Honor

Background

For both environmental and political purposes, the Israelis have stimulated interest both within Israel and among the Jewish community here in the planting of trees around their countryside. It has become common for persons who have purchased and had planted one of these trees to dedicate it to someone. Several were dedicated to President Nixon so it is not unusual that one has been planted in honor of President Ford.

The problem is, however, that the Israelis are increasingly settling in and developing the Occupied West Bank and this is one area where they have focussed these new forest groves, financed by individual purchases and plantings of trees. Official US endorsement of this activity would run contrary to our policy which is that we do not accept any changes in the Occupied Territories because their future is an issue for the negotiations and must be decided in the negotiations and not unilaterally by one side or the other. My office has seen the publications of some of the groups raising funds for forests which include unrelated pictures or Presidential messages in a way which would suggest US endorsement of this tree planting activity.

The tree which has been planted in President Ford's honor is, of course, in the Judean Hills south of Jerusalem in the Occupied West Bank. It would be wholly inappropriate for the President to send a message to the dedication ceremonies of this tree which would appear to align him closely with Israeli policies on the future of the West Bank. We have strictly avoided this in the past, regretting requests to previous Presidents for tree-dedication messages. On the basis of past practice, it is also possible that a Presidential endorsement would soon become part of the public relations campaign to sell trees.

It happens that, in any event, it is standing practice that no Presidential messages are ever sent to foreign events at the request of unofficial Americans. Our office has worked with Eliska Hasek over the years on Presidential messages and none are ever sent abroad unless they are officially stimulated or relate to an official event at which the US is represented.

Conclusion

Thus a Presidential message which could be read at the dedication of the tree would mean a radical change in standing policy on two important questions. As much as the President would like to respond to his friend, it really would be a serious mistake.

How to Respond

If you wish, you could send the memo to the President at Tab A explaining why it is undesirable to send a message on the occasion of this tree's dedication. Or you can explain it orally in your morning briefing.

With respect to the tree's donor, I can not judge whether the President would prefer to call him or send a letter, or perhaps have you call for him while he sends a letter. It would be more responsive to this well-intentioned gesture from an old friend to explain to him by phone how much his act is appreciated and why the President can not send a message for the dedication. This could not really be done in a letter.

However, it would be appropriate for the President separately to send a thank-you letter expressing his appreciation but in general terms so as not to identify the President with the tree-planting ceremony.

The memo at Tab A would provide the President with background and suggest the nature of a written reply from him which would have to be personalized. This memo would assume that you would separately call the donor to explain why no dedication message is possible.

The alternative would be for the President (a) to call and handle this all orally or (b) to write turning down the request--which I do not recommend.

RECOMMENDATION: That you either forward the memo at Tab A or discuss this orally with the President in your morning briefing.

Want permission
to dedicate

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1975

Bob Oakley

Please see Brent's note requesting talking points for his use in calling "this man" whoever that is. I suspect it is the US jewish sponsor of this effort. If this isn't enough to go on, please let me know and I will scout it out upstairs.

Can do?

Thanks very much

Bud



Jones

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Byrd -

Get me some

talking points 2

can use in calling
this man.

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

SUBJECT: Dedication of a Tree in Judean Hills--Occupied
West Bank--in Your Honor

This is in reference to the request for a message from you for the dedication of a tree planted in your honor outside Jerusalem.

Background

For both environmental and political purposes, the Israelis have stimulated interest both within Israel and among the Jewish community here in the planting of trees around their countryside. Persons who have purchased such trees and have had them planted have begun to dedicate them to prominent citizens. Several were dedicated to President Nixon and now one has been planted in your honor.

The problem is that the Israelis are increasingly settling in and developing the Occupied West Bank of Jordan. This is one area where they have focussed these new forest groves, financed by individual purchases and plantings of trees. Official US endorsement of this activity would run contrary to our policy. We do not accept any changes in the Occupied Territories because their future is an issue for the negotiations and must be decided in the negotiations and not unilaterally by one side or the other.

The tree which has been planted in your honor is in the Judean Hills south of Jerusalem in the Occupied West Bank. In terms of our foreign policy position towards the West Bank, it would not be appropriate for you to send a message to the dedication ceremonies of this tree which would appear to align you closely with Israeli policies on the future of the West Bank. We have strictly avoided this in the past, regretting requests to previous Presidents for tree-dedication messages in these circumstances. On the basis of past practice, it is also possible that your endorsement would soon become part of the public relations campaign to sell trees.

It is also the case that no Presidential messages are usually sent to foreign events at the request of unofficial Americans. Because of the enormous number of unofficial requests that are received, this policy has been adopted. Messages from you are officially stimulated or relate to an official event at which the US is represented.

Thus, a message from you on this occasion would mean a change in standing policy on two important questions, and one particularly sensitive from the point of view of the Middle East negotiations.

Options on Reply

If you agree, on the basis of the foregoing, that you do not want to send a dedication message, your reply to the donor could be handled in the following ways:

1. You could thank the donor for his well-intentioned gesture along the lines of the attached letter. It is written in general terms to avoid official endorsement of the tree planting activity in the Occupied West Bank. I could separately explain by phone that a message from you for the dedication is not possible because of standing practice on requests for such messages.
2. You could thank the donor for his gesture and also turn down the request for a message or you could do this yourself by phone. In both cases, you would be turning down the request personally.

RECOMMENDATION: That you option one above and I will have a letter along the lines of the attached draft prepared for your signature.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE

_____ Prefer option two; prepare letter.

_____ Prefer option two; provide talking points for a phonecall.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION
564

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: ~~BRENT SCOWCROFT~~ HAK
SUBJECT: Dedication of a Tree in Judean Hills--Occupied West Bank--in Your Honor

This is in reference to ^{your} ~~the~~ request for ^{information as a} ~~a~~ message from you ^{basis for responding to} for the ~~the~~ dedication of a tree ~~planted~~ in your honor outside Jerusalem.

Background

For ~~both~~ environmental and political purposes, the Israelis have ^{AMERICAN} ~~TRADITIONALLY~~ stimulated interest both within Israel and among the Jewish community ~~here~~ in the planting of trees around their countryside. Persons who have purchased such trees ~~and have had them planted~~ have begun to dedicate them to prominent citizens. Several were dedicated to President Nixon and now one has been planted in your honor.

A number of these trees have been planted in occupied areas

~~The problem is that the Israelis are increasingly settling in and developing the Occupied West Bank of Jordan. This is one area where they have focused these new forest groves, financed by individual purchases and plantings of trees.~~ Official US endorsement of this activity would run contrary to our policy. ^{US policy has been not to} We do not accept any changes in the Occupied Territories because their future is an issue ^{to be resolved through} for the negotiations and ~~must be decided in the negotiations and~~ not unilaterally by one side or the other. *Thus,*

The tree ~~which has been~~ planted in your honor is in the Judean Hills south of Jerusalem in the Occupied West Bank. In terms of our ^{REGARDING} foreign policy ~~position towards~~ the West Bank, it would not be appropriate for you to send a message to the dedication ceremonies of this tree, which would appear to align you closely with Israeli policies on the future of the West Bank. We have strictly avoided this in the past, regretting requests to previous Presidents for tree-dedication messages in these circumstances. On the basis of past ^{EXPERIENCE} practice, it is also ^{POSSIBLE} possible that your endorsement would soon become part of the public relations campaign to sell trees.

To do so

being settled by the Israelis as for example

in the West Bank area

It is also the case that no Presidential messages are usually sent to foreign events at the request of unofficial Americans. Because of the enormous number of unofficial requests that are received, ~~the~~ ^A policy has been adopted, ^{such} Messages ^{are sent when} from you are officially stimulated or relate to an official event at which the US is represented.

~~This~~, ^A message from you on this occasion would mean a change in ^{TWO} standing policy ^{ies} on two important questions, and ^{RAISE A} one particularly sensitive ^{FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF} from the point of view of the Middle East negotiations.

Options on Reply

CONSIDERATIONS

If you agree, on the basis of the foregoing, that you do not want to send a dedication message, your reply to the donor could be handled in the following ways:

1. You could thank the donor for his well-intentioned gesture along the lines of the attached letter. It is written in general terms to avoid official endorsement of the tree planting activity in the Occupied West Bank. I could separately explain by phone that a message from you for the dedication is not possible because of standing practice on requests for such messages.
2. You could ^{like} thank the donor for his gesture and also turn down the request for a message ^{personally by letter or by telephone call.} or you could do this yourself by phone. ~~In both cases, you would be turning down the request personally.~~

RECOMMENDATION: That you ^{Select} option one above, and I will have a letter along the lines of the attached draft prepared for your signature.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

_____ Prefer option two; prepare letter.

_____ Prefer option two; provide talking points for a phonecall.

Gen Scofield

Brent - I have a slight problem involving a good friend & dedicated person. His name Milton Hoffman, Michael Leonard has address etc.

He lost his wife on the Eastern Airlines crash at Miami Airport about two years ago. He was almost killed (17 hours in Swamp & 5 or 6 operations).

He is very active in Jewish organizations but does not follow the "hard line". Pro-Israel but wants to help us in solving problems. He told me he met with Alton & Darity last week.

He has donated sufficient

funks for a "forest" in Israel.
10,000 Trees. He wants it
dedicated in my name, says
he has cleared everything with
proper Israeli authorities.

He has asked me to send
him a message to be read at the
Dedication Ceremony in Israel.

He is a most generous &
dedicated American who has done
very well financially and who
has suffered a great personal
tragedy with death of his wife.

Q - Can I send him message to
be read?

If so, will you have one prepared?

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR			
1	28	1	28	17	7500564		

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: *Oakley* KISSINGER, H REFERENCE: CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE
 KISSINGER _____ COLBY, W _____ S/S _____ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT
 SCOWCROFT _____ SCHLESINGER, J _____ OTHER _____ LOU NO FORM NODIS
 DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC _____ S CODEWORD
 TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: *Trees planted in Judean Hills on west bank in Pres honor*

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION		REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
	ACTION		
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			COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL			
OCEANS POLICY			
INTELLIGENCE			

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
1/28		<i>Scowcroft</i>	X	<i>Pres for Decision (2/10)</i>	
6/4		<i>NSC/S</i>		<i>Oakley - See RCM note</i>	
6/4				<i>C Close out per Dickus</i>	

NSC/S DISP INSTR

DISPATCH _____
 CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____
 NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____
 SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____
 CROSS REF W/ _____
 SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: FOLDER: _____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:	
M/F'D _____	BY _____
CRT ID: _____	SA SF
OPEN <i>MAIL</i>	HP NS
CLOSE <i>✓</i>	<u>WH</u> EP
	PA DY