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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 6, 1977

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: JIM CONNOR *JEC*
SUBJECT: Parole Authority for Soviet Jewish
Refugees

The President reviewed Brent Scowcroft's memorandum of January 3 on the above subject and made the following notation:

"Indicate to Attorney General my approval for action."

Please follow up with appropriate action.

The original file is being returned to Brent Scowcroft with a copy of this memorandum.

cc: Dick Cheney
Brent Scowcroft

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1977

MR PRESIDENT:

The attached memorandum was reviewed by Phil Buchen's staff and they concur in Secretary Kissinger's recommendation.

Jim Connor

Indicate to att. Gen. my approval for action.


THE WHITE HOUSE

6468

WASHINGTON

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIALINFORMATION
January 3, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Brent Scowcroft 

SUBJECT: Parole Authority for Soviet Jewish Refugees

On December 7, Max Fisher gave you the memorandum at Tab A calling to your attention the case of some 3000 Soviet Jews awaiting conditional entry permits to the United States. In his memorandum he states that both the State Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) have exhausted their yearly number of permits and that it will be necessary for the Attorney General to exercise his parole authority if these people are to enter the United States. He adds that such parole authority has been exercised in the past, but the Attorney General has awaited an initial request from the Department of State prior to taking action. Mr. Fisher calls this issue to your attention, stating his strong belief that it would be appropriate for the Administration to act to admit the Soviet Jews in Rome currently awaiting entry permits.

Subsequent to Max Fisher's memorandum, both Congressman Eilberg and Senator Kennedy have written the Attorney General requesting him to exercise his parole authority. On December 17, Secretary of State Kissinger wrote the Attorney General recommending that he exercise his parole authority. I concur with Secretary Kissinger's recommendation. The matter is now with the Attorney General for decision.

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN

December 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX FISHER

SUBJECT: USE OF THE PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR
SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES

Some of the Jews leaving the Soviet Union choose to settle in the United States. A limited number each month qualify under U.S. immigration laws for "third country processing" visas issued to them by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Others receive Israeli visas and then "drop out" along the way. For both groups Rome is the intermediate stop before entry into the United States.

In Rome the refugees are supported by voluntary agencies which, in turn, are funded by the U.S. government. Refugees have traditionally been processed into the United States in the following manner. The heads of households receive conditional entry permits which are allocated by the Department of State. The remaining members of a family enter under non-preference visas which are allocated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Both State and INS have exhausted their yearly maximum number of permits under these two categories. (They are used worldwide and not just for Soviet Jews.) As a result, close to 3,000 Soviet Jews are now stuck in Rome until new numbers become available next year. The total may grow to 3,500 by the end of this month. Those who wish to come to the United States (about 75-80%) will all eventually get processed in, but it will take many months. In the meantime they are a financial burden on the U.S. and their growing numbers are of concern to the Italians. They also have increased difficulty in readjusting because they can neither work nor get permanently settled during the months they are in Rome.

Once before a similar situation developed and Attorney General Mitchell exercised his parole authority to bring in to the U.S. a group of Soviet Jews. I believe the parole authority should again be exercised.

In January the law provides for some increase in the number of slots which will be available each year to INS and State and if the current backlog is cleared a similar one would not again develop for several months. If, as we hope, the rate of emigration increases, we would in any event have to cope with that new situation.

I have talked with Brent Scowcroft and Larry Eagleburger about this situation. The Attorney General could simply invoke the parole authority on his own, but the pattern in the past has apparently been to have an initial request from the State Department. I believe the State Department will make such a request in this instance. There should also be Congressional consultation. On the House side, Cong. Eilberg is the key figure and he would be entirely for the use of the parole authority. On the Senate side, Senator Eastland has typically been somewhat reluctant to see the parole authority used, but I understand he may have ceded some of his committee jurisdiction over this matter to Senator Kennedy who would probably be supportive.

I wanted you to be aware of this problem. I feel quite strongly that it is appropriate for your Administration to act now. It is the right thing to do on both humanitarian and financial grounds.

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love

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 9, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT
FROM: JIM CONNOR JEF
SUBJECT: Use of the Parole Authority for
Soviet Jewish Refugees

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

"Max Fisher talked with me and gave me the attached.

What is status and your recommendations?"

Please follow up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

Attachment:

Memo from Max Fisher to President on above subject
dated 12/7/76

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: January 3, 1977

Time:

FOR ACTION:

cc (for information):

Phil Buchen

up 1/5/77

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Tuesday, January 4, 1977

Time: 10:00 A.M.

SUBJECT: Brent Scowcroft memo, 1/3/77 re Parole Authority for Soviet Jewish Refugees.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

Jim Connor
For the President

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIALINFORMATION
January 3, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Brent Scowcroft *BS*

SUBJECT: Parole Authority for Soviet Jewish Refugees

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ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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December 7, 1976

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Done

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 9, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT
FROM: JIM CONNOR JEB
SUBJECT: Use of the Parole Authority for
Soviet Jewish Refugees

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cc: Dick Cheney

Attachment:

Memo from Max Fisher to President on above subject
dated 12/7/76

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 3, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CONNOR
THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN *P.*
FROM: BOBBIE GREENE KILBERG *BK*
SUBJECT: Scowcroft memo re Parole Authority
for Soviet Jewish Refugees

In accordance with established procedures, the Counsel's Office sent the attached memorandum dated December 30 to the Attorney General indicating that the establishment of a parole program for the Soviet refugees, who are in Italy to seek admission to the United States, would be compatible with the President's program. The memorandum also indicated that, provided there is State Department approval, the establishment of a parole program for the former Soviet refugees in Italy who had resettled in Israel would be compatible with the President's program.

In short, the Counsel's Office concurs with Secretary Kissinger's recommendation.

Attachment