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# WHORM Subject File Code: CO153

(Countries - Syrian Arab Republic)

Case File Number(s): BEGIN-099999

**Box:** 179

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## WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## **Ronald Reagan Library**

Collection Name WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT

(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

Withdrawer

DLB 9/7/2010

File Folder

CO153 (SYRIA) (BEGIN-099999)

**FOIA** 

S10-306

**Box Number** 

179

SYSTEMATIC

1072

ND

ID Doc Type Document Description No of Doc Date Restrictions
Pages

97208 PAPER

BIO

1

B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

NSC 1224 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506 March 20, 1981 MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. L. Paul Bremer Executive Secretary Department of State Agrement of Dr. Rafik Jweijati of the SUBJECT: Syrian Arab Republic as Ambassador to the United States (S/S 8107981) The President has reviewed and concurs in the recommendation of the Department of State that the appointment of Dr. Rafik Jweijati as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United States would be agreeable to the Government of the United States. You are requested to so inform the Syrian Government. Allen J. Staff Di teetoi Vice President cc: Ed Meese Jim Baker N5C#8101224

### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

A 1224

ACTION

March 16, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM:

GEOFFREY KEMP

SUBJECT:

Agrement of Dr. Rafik Jweijati of the Syrian Arab Republic as Ambassador to the United States

At Tab B is the Department of State memorandum recommending the appointment of Dr. Rafik Jweijati as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Syria to the United States. His biographic sketch is also attached.

If you concur with the Department of State, the memorandum at Tab A for Allen Lenz's signature to State will relay the President's approval to the proposed appointment.

### RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve that Allen Lenz sign the memorandum at Tab A.

DISAPPROVE\_\_\_\_

NSC/S:

I dated this the 20th because State had to know if it had been approved Friday and it was , therefore they cabled out the information and dated it the 20th.

We did not get the folder until today.

Also, could you please send me a copy.

Thanks, Carol C.

8107981



### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 13, 1981

## MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Appointment of Dr. Rafik Jweijati of the

Syrian Arab Republic as Ambassador to the

United States.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has inquired whether our Government agrees to the appointment of Dr. Rafik Jweijati as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Syria to the United States (Tab 2). A biography of Dr. Jweijati is attached (Tab 1).

The Department believes from the information available that Dr. Jweijati will make a good ambassador to the United States and recommends that the President agree to the proposed appointment. If he concurs, the Department will inform the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

L. Paul Bremer, III Executive Secretary

#### Attachments:

- 1. Biography.
- 2. Note dated February 24, 1981 from Embassy of Syria.

OF ATTACHMENTS) WO 9/3/10

## WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## **Ronald Reagan Library**

Withdrawer Collection Name DLB 9/7/2010 WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT

(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

S10-306 CO153 (SYRIA) (BEGIN-099999)

SYSTEMATIC

**FOIA** 

Box Number

File Folder

179 1072

No of Doc Date Restric-ID Document Type tions pages **Document Description** 

97208 PAPER 1 ND **B**1

BIO

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of glft.

### EMBASSY OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 2215 WYOMING AVENUE, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

His Excellency Alexander M. Haig Secretary of State Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Upon instructions from my government I have the honor to request the agreement of the government of the United States of America for the appointment of Dr. Rafik Jweijati, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United States of America.

I am transmitting herewith the curriculum vitae of Dr. Jweijati.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Abdul Hassib Istwani Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Department of State Washington, D.C. February 24, 1981

### CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION

- 1 Licenciate of Law Damascus University.
- 2 Diploma of Interpretation, Higher School of Arabic.
- 3 Diploma of Political Economy, Faculty of Law Paris (La Sorbonne).
- 4 Diploma of Humanities London University.
   (International Law, International Economics, International Relations).
- 5 PHD in Political and Social Sciences (New School for Social Research), New York.
- 6 Parvin Fellows Fellowship (Princeton).

### EXPERIENCE

- Joined Foreign Ministry by competition in 1947.
- 1947 1952 Attache, Third, and Second Secretary Embassy of Syria, London.
- 1952 1954 Departments of Western Europe, Protocol, Chief of Cabinet of the Minister.
- 1954 1956 First Secretary, Embassy of Syria, Madrid.
- 1956 1958 Loaned to United Nations Secretariat (Political Officer, Security Council and Political Affairs Department).
- 1958 Charge d'Affaires Syrian Delegation to the United Nations.
- 1959 Secretary General of the Institute of Economic Development, Damascus (on loan).
- 1959 1961 Secretary General of the General Authority of Petroleum, Damascus (on loan).
- 1961 1962 Bureau of International Relations Presidency of the Republic.

- 1963 1964 Chief of Cabinet of the Foreign Minister.
- 1964 1973 Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
- 1973 1981 Director of the Department of Western Europe -Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Damascus.
  - Representative to the Euro-Arab Dialogue.

## PUBLICATIONS: In English

- The Political Thought of Roger Martin du Gard.
- Reflections on the Political, Legal and Economic Theory.
- The A, B, C, of Economic Development.
- Introduction to Political Science.

### **DECORATIONS:**

Spanish, German and French.

### LANGUAGES:

French, Spanish English.

NSC/S PROFILE

CONFIDENTIAL

ID 8101224

UNCLASSIFIED ENGLOSURE(3)

RECEIVED 14 MAR 81 10

TO HAIG, A

FROM ISTWANI, ABDUL H

DOCDATE 24 FEB 81

BREMER

13 MAR 81

KEYWORDS: SYRIA

AGREMENT

JWEIJATI, RAFIK

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF JWEIJATI OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AS AMB TO US

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO LENZ TO BREMER DUE: 17 MAR 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

KEMP

COMMENTS

REF# 8107981 LOG NSCIFID ( M / )

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Comments:

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026019

# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

□ O - OUTGOING □ H - INTERNAL				
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8/105122				
Name of Correspondent: Nihas	l Hame	1		
MI Mail Report User C	Codes: (A)_		(B)	(C)
Subject: Supports the alie	nated	rights	of the Sy	ian
Government for self	l-defer	ise. C	lieus re:	same.
ROUTE TO:	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD
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ACTION CODES:			DISPOSITION CODES:	
A - Appropriate Action C - Comments D - Draft Response F - Fact Sheet	I - Info Copy/No A R - Direct Reply w S - For Signature X - Interim Reply	Action Necessary /Copy	A - Answered B - Non-Special Referral	C - Completed S - Suspended
			FOR OUTGOING CORRES  Type of Response = In  Code = ",  Completion Date = D	nitials of Signer

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

## **RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY**

### **CLASSIFICATION SECTION**

No. of Additional Correspondents:	Media: M	Individual Codes:	4.400	
Prime Subject Code: CO	153 Seco Subje	ect Codes: <u>CO</u>	045	

## PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
c		Time:	р.
DSP		Time:	Media:

#### SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

n - 0 - Unknown n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan

n - 2 - Ronald Reagan

n - 3 - Ron

n - 4 - Dutch

n - 5 - Ron Reagan

n - 6 - Ronald

n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

n - 1 - Nancy Reagan

n - 2 - Nancy

n - 3 -

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan

n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

#### MEDIA CODES:

B - Box/package

C - Copy D - Official document

G - Message

H - Handcarried

L - Letter

M- Mailgram

O - Memo

P - Photo

R - Report

S - Sealed

T - Telegram

V - Telephone

X - Miscellaneous Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE

washington

June 18, 1981

Mr. Nihad Hamed 3642 Karen Parkway Pontiac, Michigan 48054

Dear Mr. Hamed:

On behalf of President Reagan, I would like to thank you for your communication concerning U.S. policy toward Syria. You comments will be reviewed by the appropriate Administration officials and receive all due consideration.

We appreciate your concerns, and thank you for sharing them.

Sincerely,

Jack Burgess

Special Assistant to the President 4-0042238142 05/22/81 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP W8HB
313682885: MGM TOBN PONTIAC MI 125 05-22 0659A EST

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20500

026019

THE FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC ASSOCIATIONS IN THE UNITED STATE AND CANADA CALL ON THE ARAB NATIONS, MONARCHS, PRESIDENTS TO SUPPORT THE ALIENATED RIGHTS OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR SELF DEFENSE.

THE FIA HAD BROADCASTED TO OUR PRESIDENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT THE USE OF OUR AMERICAN ARMS AND FUNDS IN CARRYING A CAMPAIGN OF BOMBARDMENT KILLING OF THE ARAB PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE MUSLIM AND THE CHRISTI AN ALIKE

THE ISRAELI UNLEASHED ARROGANCE DISMAYS THE WHOLE CIVILIZED WORLD AND ITS INSISTANCE TO DISARM THE ARAB NATION FOR SELF DEFENSE IT MAKES GREAT THREATS TO THE WORLD PEACE

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL THE FOREIGN MINISTERS NIHAD HAMED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PEDERATION OF ISLAMIC ASSOCIATIONS IN U.S. AND CANADA

06157 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1981

Mr. Nihad Hamed 3642 Karen Parkway Pontiac, Michigan 48054

Dear Mr. Hamed:

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Sincerely,

Jack Burgess

Special Assistant to the President

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06:57 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

100

10 #

026105

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## WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

OUTGOING INTERNAL INCOMING Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD)  Of Correspondent: Nihad  MI Mail Report  Oct: Support of Syrian	Hamed		B)	
TE TO:	ACT	TION	DIS	POSITION
	Action	Tracking Date	Type	Completion
i i	0000	YYIWIWIIDD	Response	Code YY/MM/DC
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STATE	Referral Note:	81,05,07	MAN	C81112109
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ACTION CODES:  A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure	I - Info Copy Only/No Ac R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply	ction Necessary	Code	C - Completed ferral S - Suspended

b this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

1 all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

ays return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

ir questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

(CDESSIBLE STION)

S/S #

8116530

Date

December 9, 1981

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. James W. Nance National Security Council

The White House

REF	ER.	EN	CE	:

•	10:	Edwin Meese FROM: MI. Windd hamed
	DATE:	May 22, 1981 SUBJECT: Support of Syrian
	Gove	rnment
	WHITE	HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: 5/27/81 NSC # 026105 (if any)
		THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION	TAKE	N:
		A draft reply is attached.
		A draft reply will be forwarded.
		A translation is attached.
		An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
	жх	We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
		Other.
REMARK	S: Gi	ven the nature of the message and the fact that this

L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary



organization makes frequent complaints and assertions of this type,

we do not believe a response is warranted.

(Character tion)

The way to make

S/S # 8116530

Date

December 9, 1981

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. James W. Nance
National Security Council
The White House

<b>D</b> 1	_		EN	00	_
-	P. P.	P. H	P. N	E . P.	-

TO:	Edwin Meese FROM: Mr. Nihad Hamed
DATE:	May 22, 1981 SUBJECT: Support of Syrian
Gove	rnment
WHITE	HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: 5/27/81 NSC # 026105 (if any)
-	THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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	A draft reply is attached.
	A draft reply will be forwarded.
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	An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
xx	We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
	Other.
REMARKS: Gi	ven the nature of the message and the fact that this

organization makes frequent complaints and assertions of this type, we do not believe a response is warranted.

L. Paul Bremer, III Executive Secretary



### THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REPERRAL

MAY 27, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

D:

026105

**.**...

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MAILGRAM, DATED MAY 22, 1981

10:

EDWIN MEESE

Enura

TWO KIELD BAND

SECRETARY GENERAL

THE FEDERATION OF ISLAMIC ACCN.

IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

3642 KAREN PARIWAY

PONTIAC MI 48054

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT: LESLIE SORG DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE Still - Some up with my the front side I making when the Tracking with and only a copy of that

SOUS KAREN PARKAY PORTPAC PI 48054



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MIS EXCELLENCY E MEESE, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT MMITE HOLSE MASHINGTON DC 20500

026105

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00159 EST

MGHCOMP MGH

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

0297824073 ID #\_\_\_

□ O - OUTGOING			/	
☐ H'-INTERNAL			//	42)
Date Correspondence 81,06,24 Received (YY/MM/DD)			(	) .
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Subject: Was you to giv	ean	sh prio	rity to	helping.
the Jewish Communite	1 in S	yria to	o exercis	e 175
right to emigrate	1			
ROUTE TO:	AC	TION	DISPO	SITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD
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ACTION CODES:			DISPOSITION CODES:	
A - Appropriate Action C - Comments D - Draft Response	I - Info Copy/No / R - Direct Reply w S - For Signature		A - Answered B - Non-Special Referra	C - Completed S - Suspended
F - Fact Sheet	X - Interim Reply		FOR OUTGOING CORRES	
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Comments: NSC # 81046	773		Completion Date = D	ate of Outgoing

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## RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

	CLASSIFICATION SECTION	
No. of Additional Correspondents: 140 Media:	A Individual Codes: 1.2	130 1.240
Prime Subject Code: Co 153	Secondary Subject Codes: Co 074 Hu	
	EG 031	
	PRESIDENTIAL REPLY	
Code Date	Comment	Form
C	Time:	<u>p.</u>
DSP	Time:	Media:
SIGNATURE CODES:  CPn - Presidential Correspondence n - 0 - Unknown n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan n - 2 - Ronald Reagan n - 3 - Ron n - 4 - Dutch n - 5 - Ron Reagan n - 6 - Ronald n - 7 - Ronnie  CLn - First Lady's Correspondence n - 1 - Nancy Reagan n - 2 - Nancy n - 3 -	MEDIA CODES  B - Box/pack C - Copy D - Official of G - Message H - Handcan L - Letter M - Mailgram O - Memo P - Photo R - Report S - Sealed T - Telegram V - Telephon	age document ried
CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Corr n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Rea n - 2 - Ron - Nancy	espondence X - Miscellar Y - Study gan	ieuus

# UNCLASSIFIED (Classification)

S/S # 8120510

Date July 23, 1981

8104073

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council
The White House

### REFERENCE:

REMARKS:

	TO:	The President	FROM:	Rep. Henry	A. Waxman
	DATE:	6/22/81	SUBJECT:	et al. Emigration	on of
	Jewis	h Community in Syria			
	WHITE	HOUSE REFERRAL DATE	D: <u>7/7/81</u>		NSC # 81
		THE ATTACHED ITEM W		RECTLY	
ACTION	TAKEN	1:			
		A draft reply is a	ttached.	r	
		A draft reply will	be forward	ded.	
		A translation is a	ttached.		
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		We believe no resp reason cited below		cessary fo	r the
		Other.			

for L. Paul Bremer, III Executive Secretary

## HUEY 201981

Dear Mr. Solarz:

I am writing with respect to your letter of June 22 to the President, co-signed by 141 of your colleagues, regarding the condition of the Jewish community in Syria.

The situation of Syria's Jewish community, which now numbers some 4,500 persons, is a matter of continuing concern to the U.S. Government. Prior to the resumption of formal U.S.-Syrian relations in mid-1974, the U.S. Government did what it could through various indirect diplomatic channels to ameliorate conditions for Syria's Jewish community. Since 1974, as your letter notes, we worked toward this objective directly through diplomatic contacts with the Syrian Government. In these efforts, we have consulted with various American Jewish organizations and interested members of Congress.

While the situation is still not perfect, from 1974 through 1976, some of the more onerous restrictions long imposed upon Jews in Syria were gradually relaxed. A series of unpublicized high-level decrees in late 1976 and 1977 eliminated or significantly reduced remaining official restrictions against Syria's Jewish community. Under the new regulations, for example, the identity documents of Jews still include an indication of their religion, but the designation is no longer prominently featured in red ink.

In other areas, important positive changes also occurred. Restrictions on Jewish movements within the country were eliminated as a permanent feature of government policy. Today, Jews can hold government jobs and Jewish merchants are now allowed to import and export goods in the same manner as other citizens. Jewish schools are to be treated equally with other private educational institutions in the country; Jewish community leaders are invited to attend official ceremonies; and Jewish students are admitted to Syrian universities under the same conditions that apply to other Syrian applicants. addition, Svrian Jews may bequeath or inherit property as other citizens, although some legal complications in their ability to obtain or transfer property deeds and other title documents still occur and they experience the usual bureaucratic delays and red tape. The supreme governmental committee that existed to supervise Jevish affairs has been abolished.

The Honorable
Stephen J. Solarz.
House of Representatives.

The American Embassy in Damascus, which is in regular contact with the community leadership, as well as members of the community and American Jewish representatives who visit Syria, concur that the overall situation of the community has improved under the Assad regime. At the same time, members of the Syrian-Jewish community share with many other Syrian citizens the hazards associated with the country's current uncertain internal security situation, and although the Jewish community has not been the deliberate target of government security measures, dissident terrorism or discrimination related to the security problems in recent months, there have been incidents affecting members of the community.

With respect to travel out of Syria, Syrian Jews, like all Syrian citizens, must obtain a passport. Jews are now able to obtain passports more readily then in the past, although passports may be refused for Jews as well as others for a number of reasons. In addition, any Syrian traveling abroad may be required to post a bond which is forfeited by failure to return.

As your letter indicates, a formal ban exists on the emigration of members of the Jewish faith. U.S. efforts to have the ban on Syrian Jewish emigration lifted have been unsuccessful. However, in 1977, the Syrian authorities did permit a number of young Syrian Jewish women to settle to this country. In 1980 an American citizen married a young Jewish woman in Syria, and she was given permission to emigrate to the U.S. Although there have thus been some positive steps in regard to the situation of the community's unmarried women, the leadership of the Syrian community continues to see this situation as its most pressing human and social problem.

The formal ban on emigration for Jews has led some members of the community to try to leave Syria without permission to travel. Clandestine departures during the last several months of 1978 of a sizeable number of community leaders prompted the Syrian authorities to launch an investigation into the incidents. In connection with that investigation, several members of the community were detained for questioning and subsequently released. Since that time, there have been other cases in which Syrian authorities have apprehended members of the community seeking to flee Syria. While the treatment normally associated with investigation in these cases cannot be described as gentle, we have no reason to believe that the treatment of members of the community questioned was harsher than might have been experienced by any Syrian citizen under similar circumstances. We understand that clandestine departures continue to occur.

I hope that this information addresses some of your concerns regarding the welfare of the Syrian Jewish community. The Reagan Administration is determined to work by means judged most effective towards alleviating the hardships of this community. Our goal will be the eventual assurance that all Syrian Jews may leave Syria freely, or remain there in safety and dignity if they wish. Ultimately, progress toward the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East offers the best hope for further improvement of the conditions of Syria's Jews, including the question of emigration. However, we believe that progress can be made in the meantime, and we are committed to the exploration of all appropriate means to move in that direction.

Sincerely,

Richard Fairbanks
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

ID 8104073

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

PAGE D01

REFERRAL

DATE: 07 JUL 81

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: PRES

SOURCE: WAXMAN, HENRY A

DATE: 22 JUN 81

KEYWORDS: SYRIA

EMIGRATION

CO

SUBJ: LTR FM 142 REPS RE EMIGRATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SYRIA

REQUIRED ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

DUEDATE: 15 JUL 81

COMMENTS:

STAFF DIRECTOR

FOR NSC USE ONLY ----

FOR INFO KEMP

GUHIN

F WH O CM C CM

Dear L.H.:

The President has asked me to thank you for your June 22 letter, cosigned by 141 of your colleagues, urging that the Administration give priority attention to helping the Jewish community in Syria to exercise its right to emigrate.

The deep interest you have expressed on this matter is most appreciated. I have referred your views to the President's foreign policy advisers for careful review, and I am sure that they will give your concerns immediate and serious attention.

Thank you again for allowing us to have the benefit of your statement on this important issue.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Priedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable L. H. Pountain House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF: CMP:asr

cc: w/copy of inc, NSC Secretariat - for DIRECT response, with copy to Max L. Friedersdorf.

WHITE HOUSE RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING.

(This identical letter was sent to 141 Members of the House. RECID = 029782.)

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

029782

June 22, 1981

Hon. Ronald Reagan
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you on behalf of the beleaguered Jewish community in Syria, about whose fate and future we are deeply concerned.

There are approximately 5,000 Jews, the remnant of a once flourishing community, still residing in Syria. They face a number of deprivations and hardships, the most serious of which is the denial of their right to emigrate. Despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of Syrian Jews want nothing more or less than the opportunity to leave Syria so that they can live in freedom in other lands, the Syrian Government, in violation of its obligations as a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has refused to let them leave.

Both the Congress and the two previous Administrations were active in efforts to assist Syrian Jewry. Presidents Ford and Carter, as well as Secretaries of State Kissinger and Vance, all took a personal interest in the welfare of the Syrian Jewish community, and undertook high-level representations to the Syrian Government on their behalf. Members of Congress travelling to Syria also raised the emigration issue in their meetings with senior Syrian leaders. These endeavors were rewarded with a small but significant measure of success in 1977, when the Syrian Government permitted 15 unmarried Jewish women to emigrate to the United States. There are, as you likely know, about 500 single Jewish women in Syria for whom there are few marriageable Jewish men available, since most of the latter have long since left Syria.

Although we were hopeful at the time that additional unmarried Jewish women would be allowed to emigrate, not a single Syrian Jew, married or unmarried, has been permitted to leave Syria since then. We strongly believe that continued expressions of concern from the U.S. Government are essential if the Syrians are to be persuaded to resume permitting at least unmarried Jewish women, and hopefully the entire Jewish community, to emigrate. We urge that you accord the same priority to this pressing humanitarian issue as did the Ford and Carter Administrations, and commit your Administration to using whatever influence it may have with President Assad to prevail upon him to let these people go.

We recognize that the United States-Syrian relationship is a strained one, and that the prospects for significant improvement in the near future are uncertain. Nevertheless, we feel it is important for the Syrians to know that how they treat the Jewish community, and more specifically, their position with respect to Jewish emigration, will be one of the factors that the Reagan Administration will take into account in assessing its policy towards Syria.

We hope that we can count on your assistance on this nonpartisan, humanitarian issue, which has been a top priority for previous Administrations, and which, we trust, will be a matter of great importance to your Administration as well.

Sincerely,

MENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
Member of Congress

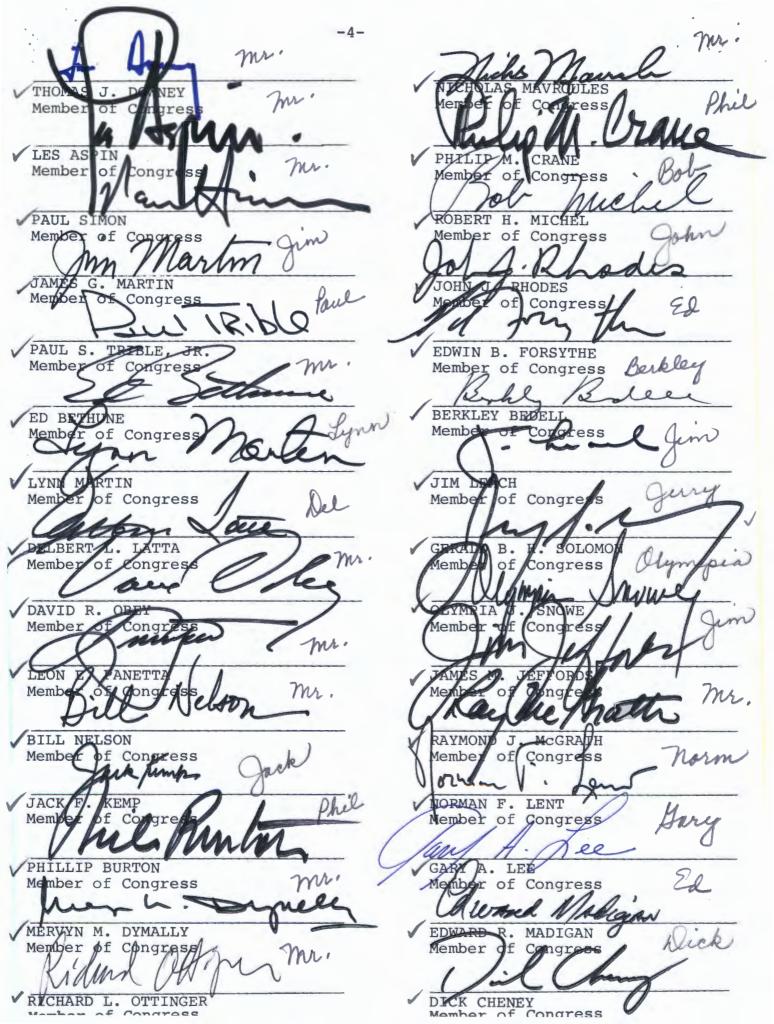
BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

WILLIAM LEHMAN
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

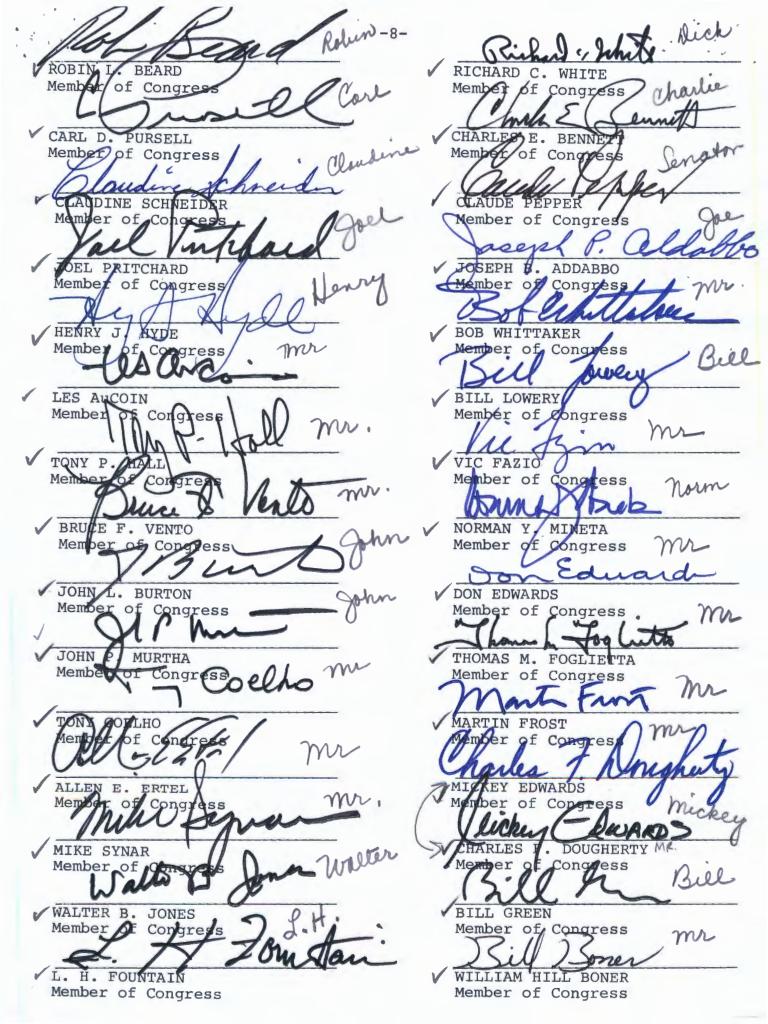
m. BARNEY FRANK S H. SCHEVER JAMI Member of Cong Member of Congress mr. ROBERT J. LACOMARSINO Member of Congress ALBERT GORE, JR. Member of Congress DONALD JOSEPH ALBOSTA ANTHONY C. BEILENSON Member of Congress Member of Congress EN KRAMER FRANK HORTON Member of Congress Member of Congress SIDNEY R. YATES MARJORIE S. HOLT Member of Congress Member of Congress m5. mr. BARBARA A. MIKULSKI Member of Congress CLARENCE D. LONG DALE E. KILDEE Member of Congress Member of Congress m. JONATHAN B. BINGHAM PETER W. RODINO, JK per of Congress Member of Congress Bull CORCORAN BILL FRENZEL Member of Congress Member of Congress



Member of Congress

mr. JAMES R. JONES JAMES J. BLANCHARD Member of Congress JAMES J. FLORIO Member of Congress Member of Congress me ADAM BENJAMIN, JR. Member of Congress Member of Congress THOMAS S. FOLEY RON WYDEN Member of Congress Member of Congress me BOB TRAXLER Member Member of Congress NICK JOE RAHALL, JOE MOAKLEY Member of Congress Member of Congress PRICE BRIAN J. DONNELLY Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress mber of Congress Ms. GERALDINE A. FERRARO Member of Congress Member of Congress Charlie

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DISPATCH

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ID 8203852

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

084314 PAGE E01

REFERRAL

DATE: 03 JUN 82

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRES

SOURCE: ASSAD, HAFIZ

DATE: 31 MAY 82

KEYWORDS: SYRIA

HS

SUBJ: THANK YOU MSG FOR PRES NATL DAY MSG TO SYRIA

REQUIRED ACTION: ADVANCE / INFORMATION CY

DUEDATE:

COMMENTS:

STAFF SECRETARY

nsc# 8203852

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Che Mhite Hause Washington

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ETAT

HIS EXCELLENCY MR RONALD REAGAN

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHITE HOUSE DC

I WISH TO THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR YOUR KIND

GREETINGS ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND FOR THE KIND WORDS ON THE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR PEOPLE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF

THE SEARCH OF JUST PEACE IN OUR AREA I AVAIL MYSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR BEST WISHES FOR YOUR PERSONAL HAPPINESS AND THE PROSPERITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE 31/5/1982 HAFEZ AL-ASSAD COLL ETAT 31/5/1982 HOFIZ al- ASSAD 1550 EST NNNN

W/ATTCH FILE \_\_\_\_ (C)

DISPATCH 41.6.63 (5/5-1)

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	Prime Subject Code:	/53 Se	condary bject Codes:		
				:	

## PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date		Comment	Form
c		Time:		Р-
DSP		Time:		Media:

#### SIGNATURE CODES:

**CPn** - Presidential Correspondence

Pn - Presidential Correspondenc
n - 0 - Unknown
n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
n - 3 - Ron
n - 4 - Dutch
n - 5 - Ron Reagan
n - 6 - Ronald
n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence n - 0 - Unknown n - 1 - Nancy Reagan n - 2 - Nancy n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

#### MEDIA CODES:

B - Box/package

C - Copy
D - Official document
G - Message
H - Handcarried

H - Handcarried
L - Letter
M - Mailgram
O - Memo
P - Photo
R - Report
S - Sealed
T - Telegram
V - Telephone
X - Miscellaneous
Y - Study

EMBASSY OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 2215 WYOMING AVENUE, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008 2 2 (S. POSTAC) = 0.20

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.