

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

00 081

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 27, 1990

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI JOSEPH B. GLASER

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO
WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT OF POL POT AND THE KHMER
ROUGE; URGES THE PRESIDENT TO WELCOME THE
DALAI LAMA TO THE WHITE HOUSE

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
SARAH DECAMP	ORG	90/07/27 LJ		C 90/08/20 LJ
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500 4800 4400

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- *ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *
- * * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
- *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
- *C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
- *D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
- *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
- *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* * OUTGOING *
- *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
- *S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
- *X-INTERIM REPLY * * *
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9017427

Date August 15, 1990

FOR: Mr. William F. Sittmann
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Bush

From: Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

Date: July 23, 1990

Subject: Supports Government's decision to withdraw support of
Pol Pot & the Khmer Rouge; urges welcome for the Dalai Lama

WH Referral Dated: August 6, 1990
NSCS ID# (if any): 162129

The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

A draft reply is attached.

A draft reply will be forwarded.

A translation is attached.

An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.

The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.

Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:

Blow Hub
Director
Secretariat Staff

UNCLASSIFIED



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 13, 1990

Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser
Executive Vice President
Central Conference of American Rabbis
192 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10016-6801

Dear Rabbi Glaser:

I have been asked to reply to your July 23, 1990 letter to the President regarding recent revisions in U.S. policy toward Cambodia and a possible visit to the White House by the Dalai Lama.

The United States policy toward Cambodia seeks a comprehensive negotiated settlement with three objectives: (a) preventing a Khmer Rouge return to power; (b) ensuring self-determination for the Cambodian people through free and fair elections; and (c) verifying the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. Our overall objective is to help restore independence and peace to a country which has seen more than its share of tragedy. We believe this can only be accomplished through a comprehensive settlement that would lead to a ceasefire, arms cutoff, and establishment of an appropriate transitional authority to create a neutral political environment in Cambodia until free and fair elections can be held under U.N. auspices. The failure to achieve a comprehensive settlement, in our view, would leave a situation of continued fighting that would provide the Khmer Rouge its best opportunity to seize power again.

As you have noted, the Secretary announced revisions to our Cambodia policy July 18. We are not changing our fundamental objectives. We believe these steps will help encourage flexibility among the key participants to this conflict. We need to convince the Cambodian parties to end the ongoing bloodshed and join the political process. We are already pressing China to use its influence with the Khmer Rouge to accept a comprehensive political settlement.

We are now expanding our ongoing dialogue with Vietnam to include Cambodia, the first meeting of which took place August 6. We already regularly discuss resolving the POW/MIA issue, refugee resettlement, and other humanitarian issues. We have upon occasion talked with Vietnamese officials about

Cambodia, at the Paris Conference for example. Holding regular discussions will allow us to make clear to Vietnam the need for flexibility on its part, as well as on the part of the Phnom Penh regime, to achieve a settlement. We would also pursue direct contact with the Phnom Penh regime if this would advance our goal of free and fair elections. That opportunity has not yet presented itself, but we are keeping the possibility under consideration.

In addition, we have decided that we can no longer support the CGDK resistance coalition holding Cambodia's U.N. seat so long as that coalition includes the Khmer Rouge. We want the seat to be occupied by a freely elected government, and pending that development, by Cambodians firmly committed to free and fair elections. I would point out that although we -- along with the vast majority of U.N. members -- supported CGDK U.N. credentials in the past, we do not recognize, support, or otherwise deal with the resistance coalition as a whole, because it includes the Khmer Rouge.

Along with these steps, we are easing licensing restrictions on humanitarian programs for Vietnam and Cambodia. We will also be implementing the program legislated by the Congress to aid children within Cambodia in coordination with our ongoing program of assistance to the camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, the populations of which are approximately half children.

We believe these steps will complement our intensified diplomatic activity of the past year. We have been working closely with key governments, including the other four permanent members of the United Nations Security Council most recently in Paris July 16-17, to help bridge differences on the major unresolved issues in a negotiated settlement.

In Paris, the Perm Five representatives achieved significant consensus on very difficult issues involving military functions and near agreement on transitional administrative arrangements leading to elections. We believe that an enhanced role for the United Nations is vital to help achieve a neutral environment in which the Cambodian people themselves can choose their future government in free and fair elections held under UN administration. The Five meet next in New York at the end of August to discuss the election process, protecting human rights, and guaranteeing Cambodia's independence.

Let me assure you that this Administration is unalterably opposed to a return to power by the abhorrent Khmer Rouge -- whose legacy of death and destruction from the 1970s must never be forgotten. We believe that a comprehensive agreement represents the best means of controlling the Khmer Rouge. In our view, any settlement will require strong and effective measures, supported by the major outside powers, to ensure that the Khmer Rouge can never regain control and subject the Cambodian people once again to the horrors of the past. These measures should include preventing the discredited senior Khmer Rouge leaders most responsible for heinous crimes against the Cambodian people, including Pol Pot, from playing any role in Cambodia's political future.

At the same time, the leaders of the Phnom Penh regime share this unacceptable background; many are former Khmer Rouge officials -- including Prime Minister Hun Sen, Communist Party leader Heng Samrin, and National Assembly leader Chea Sim. These former Khmer Rouge leaders represent an illegitimate regime imposed and sustained for the past decade by foreign force of arms; the Phnom Penh regime is also acquiring a significant reputation for corruption and factionalism.

The United States Government has not recognized either the National Government of Cambodia (formerly the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea) -- which includes the unacceptable Khmer Rouge -- or the Vietnamese-imposed regime in Phnom Penh, the People's Republic of Kampuchea (which now calls itself the State of Cambodia). Our position has been to support Prince Sihanouk and the two Cambodian Non-Communist Resistance groups in their struggle for a free and independent Cambodia. In a durable settlement, we believe that the Non-Communists, under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann, would play an important role as a democratic alternative to the Khmer Rouge as well as the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh regime. Without the Non-Communists, the situation in Cambodia is likely to be one of continued military struggle between these two implacably hostile communist factions, with the Khmer Rouge the likely beneficiary.

Your suggestion of a White House meeting for the Dalai Lama during his planned visit to the United States later this year will be carefully considered as the time of the visit approaches. As always, our admiration for His Holiness as a person and as a religious leader is not in question. But we do not want this respect to be misconstrued as recognition of an

independent Tibet. Nor do we want to provide any encouragement for renewed violence, which would seriously undermine prospects for reconciliation.

The United States, like other governments, considers Tibet to be a part of China. We do not recognize the Dalai Lama as leader of a government in exile. Nonetheless, we have told the Chinese that we would welcome a dialogue between the PRC and the Dalai Lama, which would be an important step toward resolving the problems of Tibet.

For further information, I have enclosed a copy of the statement from the discussions held by representatives of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in Paris in July regarding a Cambodian settlement as well as a Department of State publication regarding Cambodia.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Twining
Director
Office of Vietnam, Laos
and Cambodia

Enclosures:

1. Statement on Cambodia - Paris, July 17, 1990.
2. Gist on Cambodia.

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

9017427

'90 AUG-06 6:38 PM
AUGUST 6, 1990

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 162129

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JULY 23, 1990

TO: PRESIDENT BUSH

FROM: RABBI JOSEPH B. GLASER
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN
RABBIS
192 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10016

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO
WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT OF POL POT AND THE KHMER
ROUGE; URGES THE PRESIDENT TO WELCOME THE
DALAI LAMA TO THE WHITE HOUSE

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

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(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

162129

Founded in 1889

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

FAX (212) 689-1649 (212) 684-4990

Sarah Olamp

Office of the Executive Vice President

July 23, 1990

The Honorable George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

9017427

'90 AUG-06 6:39 PM

Dear Mr. President:

I am deeply grateful that my Government has finally withdrawn its support of the mass murderer, Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge.

We have done more than a few things of which we have no right to be proud, including standing idly by while six million of my fellow Jews were being massacred by the Nazis, but I think that in terms of degree of sinfulness, nothing quite matches our support of Pol Pot, global strategies notwithstanding.

I realize that it was easier for you to do this than it would have been for previous administrations because of what is happening to the Soviet Union, but also realize that you had to take some kind of a hard decision vis-a-vis relations with China. I hope this presages a decision to welcome the Dalai Lama to the White House or, at least, not to oppose a Congressional invitation to address the joint Houses.

Congratulations, Mr. President.

All good wishes.

Shalom,

Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser

Exe. VP

JBG:sk

cc: Honorable James Baker,
Secretary of State

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