

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 25, 1992

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RIGHT REVEREND DR. TERENCE KELSHAW

SUBJECT: ENCLOSES A COPY OF A STATEMENT BY THE HEADS
OF CHURCHES IN THE HOLY LAND REGARDING THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND ITS CONTINUING
ATROCITIES AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D
CECE KREMER		ORG	92/08/25	CK A	92/09/08
	REFERRAL NOTE:		___/___/___		___/___/___
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COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 4500 _____
PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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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,OE0B) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 8, 1992

Dear Bishop Kelshaw:

On behalf of the President thank you for your recent correspondence. I appreciate your taking the time to contact the to express your concerns.

Your letter will be forwarded to the National Security Office for appropriate handling.

Please do not hesitate to call upon this office in the future should we be able to assist you.

Sincerely,



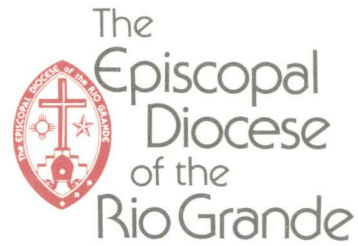
Cecile B. Kremer
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Director of the Office of Public Liaison

Right Reverend Dr. Terence Kelshaw
Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande
4303 Carlisle Boulevard, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4811

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Cele Kremer

August 20, 1992



The Right Reverend Dr. Terence Kelshaw
Bishop

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are encouraged by the sensitive manner in which you have dealt with the issue of Housing Loans in regard to Israel though we remain skeptical of Mr. Rabin's protested sensitivity toward the Palestinian people.

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The enclosed Statement by the Heads of Churches in Israel reflects just the tip of the iceberg of much atrocity and measured blindness by the authorities in Israel which I have observed as an annual visitor to Israel since 1967.

Can we not demand from Israel that justice be accorded the Palestinians and some protection offered the Christian church, both of which have suffered slow and ruthless treatment over the past forty years? Does the scheming authority in Israel have no limits placed upon them? Is it right for them to be constantly bailed out by the United States without any evidence of work on their part toward human right and decency for the Palestinian?

The collective punishment by this racist oppression called the Israeli government is not in accord with your own call for, and commitment to, change in places where racism and apartheid exist.

Yours sincerely,

+ *Terence, Rio Grande*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Terence Kelshaw
Bishop, Rio Grande

TK/jcg

cc: The Most Rev. Edmond L. Browning
The Rt. Rev. Samir Kafity
Mr. William Rogers

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STATEMENT BY THE HEADS OF CHURCHES IN THE HOLY LAND

As we stand upon the threshold of a New Year, we, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Christian Churches in Jerusalem, look ahead to a period of peace and justice in which our children may grow and prosper, unencumbered by fears and uncertainties, strong in their faith in the Lord.

It is our heartfelt wish and hope to see this blessed land endowed with peace and to see justice prevail across its breadth and length.

We address this longing to the authorities in Israel, to the Palestinian leaders and to the Palestinian and Jewish people and beseech the Lord to give us all light and strength to effect reconciliation and find peace, justice and security for all.

But certain untoward developments that occurred recently and that continue to occur to this day, threaten to thwart the fulfillment of this longing.

We are profoundly concerned over several grave incidents besetting our life and that of our communities, and causing tribulation not only among the local Christian population but among our brethren in all parts of the world as well.

One of the most serious incidents, and the one with the widest repercussions, has been the seizure of houses in Silwan by settlers who enjoy public funding and seek to evict many other families from the same neighborhood of Silwan.

Since April 1990, the St. John's Hospice, adjoining the Holy Sepulchre, has been occupied by settlers. Despite official undertakings that the building is to be restored to its original legitimate owners, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, it is still occupied by the settlers.

Furthermore, in recent months, Ateret Cohanim, has begun intensifying its aggressive settlement policy in and around Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the Israeli authorities, though fully aware of the implications, have adopted an ambivalent attitude to the depredations of the settlers.

As we have repeatedly stated in the past, we categorically condemn any attempt to modify the demographic and unique character and status of Jerusalem.

Collective punishment continues to be visited indiscriminately on the civilian Palestinian population. For a whole fortnight, from Dec. 1 to Dec. 15, total curfew was imposed on the Ramallah area and new restrictions placed on West Bank towns and the Gaza Strip, aggravating the severe restrictions on movement already in force since the beginning of last year. These measures, in addition to causing considerable hardship to people, have severely limited their freedom of access to the Holy Places in Jerusalem during Feast days.

We condemn the stabbing of the Patriarchal Vicar of the Syrian Catholic Church on Christmas Eve, and the assault on his convent.

We regret that the authorities who were alerted to the threat on his life, did not take preventive measures and furthermore set the assailant free, before the settlement of the issue.

Around the dawn of the New Year, vandals slashed the tires of several cars belonging to Christian institutions, consular missions and Armenian residents parked near the Armenian Patriarchate and daubed racist slogans on a gate.

During the weekend of December 28, a rare 6th Century Byzantine mosaic was vandalized. The dedicatory Greek inscription of the apse was irreversibly damaged. Two funerary chambers belonging to an Armenian 6th century monastery were buried beneath a huge pile of rocks.

Several Christian vestiges, such as St. Stephen's monastic complex (near Damascus Gate) and St. George's monastery outside Jaffa Gate, have been denied posterity and buried under new highways.

We demand the authorities to provide protection against these depredations and take prompt action to forestall any further harassment in the future, and preserve the newly discovered relics of the early Christian Church in Jerusalem. If no appropriate and satisfactory measures are taken to protect Christian archaeological sites, we will consider seeking international protection to preserve our universal Christian heritage.

We pray to the Almighty that peace and understanding may reign in our region, and that His Holy Land may be blessed with stability and prosperity.

We call upon all the faithful to pray that the Lord may bestow upon us the grace of peace in the coming year.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem;
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem;
Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem;
Custos of the Holy Land;
Coptic Archbishop of Jerusalem;
Syrian Archbishop of Jerusalem;
Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem;
Bishop of Anglican Church;
The Greek-Catholic Patriarchal Vicar;
The Lutheran Bishop of Jerusalem.