

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ND (6900)

By NARA Date (3107

NEA/ARN Confirmation

10/

April 21. 1971

Honorable Jacob K. Javits United States Senate Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Javits:

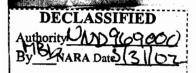
The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of April 2 concerning recent reports of arrests of Iraqi Jews. The Department has been following the situation very closely, in particular Assistant Secretary Sisco and the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs as well as Ambassador Finger at the UN.

As you know, we have no diplomatic or consular relations with the Iraqi Government and our access to that government is, therefore, limited. When we first started receiving reports of arrests of Iraqi Jews, however, we approached the British, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian and Swiss Governments and asked that they consider interceding on behalf of those being detained. In the meantime, we instructed the Belgians, who represent us in Baghdad, to express our concern to the Iraqi Government about the plight of those arrested who were relatives of American citizens. We also exchanged information with the Israeli Embassy here in Washington. Finally, we were in close contact with Prince Sadruddin Khan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who at our request stopped in Baghdad during an Asian tour and made personal inquiries and appeals to the President of Iraq on behalf of the Iraqi Jewish community. These approaches and appeals have apparently been successful and we are now pleased to report that according to reliable information all those arrested have been released. We will certainly continue to watch developments in Iraq closely and will endeavor to do what we can.

DECLASSIFIED PA/HO Department of State E.O. 12958, as amended June 21, 2006

100

al aly



Given the unpredictable situation in Iraq. I am sure you can appreciate the need for discretion with regard to the release of the above information.

I trust that this information has been responsive to your inquiry. If you have any further questions, however, please let us know.

Sincerely,

David M. Abshire Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations

Drafted by: NEA/ARN:TJScotes:bdf #7105130 .Clearance: NEA/ARN - Mr. Killgore NEA - Mr. Boyatt H - Amb. Symmes

DECLASSIFIED PA/HO Department of State E.O. 12958, as amended June 21, 2006