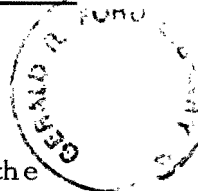


4:15 p.m., Thursday, June 26, 1975  
(The Cabinet Room)



The President/Delegation of the  
National Association of Arab Americans

[General Scowcroft]

20  
3449

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 25

FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

You have separately received the package containing talking points for the President and the Secretary for tomorrow's meeting with the NAAA (#3449).

The NAAA has just passed along the attached -- a statement for the President which the group to leave behind following the meeting summing up NAAA views on the Middle East as well as copies of recent resolutions passed by the NAAA at their Annual Convention in May.

You may wish to pass these along to the Secretary on an info basis prior to the meeting.

Bob Oakley



TO THE HONORABLE GERALD FORD  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF ARAB AMERICANS

JUNE 26, 1975

4:00 P.M.

THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

DELEGATION:

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Edmond N. Howar    | President                |
| Richard C. Shadyac | Immediate Past President |
| Peter S. Tanous    | Past President           |
| Helen M. Haje      | Executive Secretary      |
| Joseph Baroodiy    | First Vice President     |
| Minor George       | Second Vice President    |
| George Mahshie     | Third Vice President     |
| Dr. Wm. T. Driebe  | Treasurer                |
| Robert Thabit      | Secretary                |
| Michael S. Saah    | Board of Directors       |
| Thomas Ruffin      | Executive Director       |



Mr. President:

and honored

We are indeed grateful/for the opportunity to meet with you today. On behalf of the National Association of Arab Americans, (N.A.A.A.) and over one million Americans of Arab heritage which we represent, we wish to express our appreciation and support for the manner in which you have been conducting the affairs of our government. The National Association of Arab Americans, a non-tax exempt organization, was incorporated in 1972, when it became evident, that only through an ethnic political structure could we coordinate our efforts to best serve our country in bringing about a change in our foreign policy regarding the Middle East. Under the Constitution of the NAAA, we are dedicated to the same high ideals of democracy, peace, justice and brotherhood of man, as is set forth in the Charter of the U.N. and Constitution of the United States. Among the objectives of the NAAA, is one in which we are committed to foster, encourage and promote the traditional ties of friendship between the people of the U.S. and the people of the Arab countries.

In view of the seriousness of the situation now existing in the Middle East, and cognizant of the fact that you are in the process of reassessing our Foreign Policy, we are here today to express to you the views and opinions of the Arab American community.

The **bold** and courageous steps you have taken in reassessing our policies, **and** your fair and evenhanded approach to the problems of the area, **can only** enhance the U.S. image and further improve our relations with traditional allies. A fair and equal policy for all the

people of the area is most important at this time.

Through U.S. diplomatic efforts, important and great strides have been made in improving relations with Arab nations, who have taken a more moderate stance, and continue to seek U.S. diplomatic involvement in a key position in their search for peace.

We were pleased to note that in a recent statement Secretary Kissinger said "a settlement is required in order to protect the fundamental national interests of the U.S." We concur wholeheartedly with the five points made by Secretary Kissinger in his statement as our reason for "an active American role."

1. Because of our historical and moral commitment to the survival and well being of Israel
2. Because of our important interests in the Arab world--an area of more than 150 million people sitting stride the world's largest oil reserves.
3. Because the eruption of crisis in the Middle East would severely strain our relations with our allies in Europe and Japan.
4. Because continuing instability risks a new international crisis over oil and a new setback to the world's hopes for economic recovery threatening the well-being of not only the industrial world, but most nations of the globe.
5. Because a crisis in the Middle East poses an inevitable risk of direct U.S.-Soviet confrontation and has done so with increasing danger in every crisis since the beginning.

We feel it is incumbent on the United States to accelerate our efforts towards a just peace in the area that will be free of bias, and fair to all parties concerned. Such a settlement should be based upon United Nations Resolution 242, to which the United States is committed and to the concepts generally accepted by the International Community:

1. ~~Withdrawal~~ of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent (June 1967) conflict.
2. ~~Termination~~ of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threat or acts of

force.

4. Affirms further the necessity for:
  - a. Guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;
  - b. Achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;
  - c. Guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones.

At the Third Annual Convention of the National Association of Arab Americans, held in Washington, D.C. in May 1975, the following was among the many resolutions adopted by the General Assembly:

"We therefore feel that recognition by the U.S. of the Palestine Liberation Organization can only serve to speed the pursuit of a just peace as well as affirm our country's commitment to the self determination of peoples" (Resolutions attached)

We are pleased to note that your announced reassessment of U.S. Foreign Policy has been followed by positive developments in the Middle East by the Arabs; namely the historic re-opening of the Suez Canal and resettlement of inhabitants thereon, Syria has extended the United Nations presence on the Golan Heights for another six months. Proof that the Arabs are pursuing a policy towards peace.

There is continuing evidence of Israeli building new settlements in occupied territories, expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza and a resistance to withdrawing from the occupied territories. We find the evidences of positive movement towards peace by the Arabs, is not matched by equal evidence on the part of the Israeli's.

We support the actions you have taken thus far, Mr. President, but express our concern that any delay in approaching the overall problem will compound the internal problems for a settlement in Israel as well as the Arab countries. We also fear that Israel has no intention to withdraw from territories occupied thru military aggression, as we watch with apprehension the continuous building on the West Bank,

Heights, and elsewhere in the occupied lands, and view with alarm the map released by the popular Labor Party, defining the territories which are "not negotiable." Withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories cannot be projected or accepted as concessions by Israel, but rather must be viewed as minimum/compliance with the requirements of United Nations Resolution 242, which was, and is, supported wholeheartedly by our government. In view of the seriousness of the existing conditions, we urge that every effort necessary for the implementation of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, be given top priority.

Never before has the atmosphere and attitudes of the nations of the Middle East been so apparently in favor of a settlement. All of the Arab countries directly involved in the conflict have indicated a willingness to make peace conditioned upon Israel's readiness to return to the pre-June 1967 lines. Arab nations have indicated through their acts of cooperation with the U.S. they are serious about ending the war, however, Israel must define in clear terms her withdrawal timetable or we are afraid that the self-restraint now being exhibited by the Arab countries may erupt into another military confrontation. The longer settlement is delayed, and the rights of the Palestinians are denied, (which in this case is the central and basic issue), the more explosive the situation becomes, and the closer we come to a confrontation with other super powers. Arab unity is gaining on all fronts, and economically, U.S. business men are flocking to the Arab capitals in search of business contracts, while European arms merchants are peddling their wares.

Israel is now totally dependent on U.S. assistance. A vulnerable Israel can no longer claim to be protecting U.S. interests in the Middle East, on the contrary, Israel has become an American dependent. Although Egypt is not a client state, Mr. Rabin stated (Washington Star 6/18/75)

"prospects for peace now hinges on U.S. willingness to pressure Egypt into making new political concessions." For years the U.S. has been providing Israel with the most sophisticated and advanced armament we produce without any conditions attached. Does the U.S. therefore have political leverage with Israel?

The New York Times reported on June 12, 1975, Israel is requesting from the United States between \$2.5 and \$2.8 Billion over the next 12 months. In addition Israeli officials say that most of the aid must be provided in outright grants. Now may be the time for political accommodations! Large scale aid to Israel now, without political conditions, would be ill-timed and ill-advised and would probably jeopardize the peace negotiations. If as Israel states, it needs weapons to defend itself, let us limit arms sales to defensive weapons. Israel must indicate whether it wants peace or territories, she cannot have both.

We believe the U.S. should implement that elusive "evenhanded" policy in the Middle East about which there has been so much talk. We are deeply concerned over the energy problems we face, and the economic conditions in the U.S. Recently Congress has, in some of its actions shown total unconcern for domestic conditions, while over-acting in support of Israel. It is our belief that the signature of 76 Senators on the letter sent to you, Mr. President, was an attempt to counteract your reassessment of our Middle East policy.

Mr. David Ben-Gurion, one of Israel's wisest leaders in 1971 tried to tell his people that, "peace is Israel's greatest necessity," and to "get it, we must return to the borders before 1967. As for security, militarily defensible borders, while desirable, cannot by themselves guarantee our future. Real peace with our Arab neighbors-- mutual trust and friendship -- that is the only true security."



The National Association of Arab Americans, having kept abreast of, and understanding the issues of the Middle East conflict, are certain that unless key issues are resolved soon, (which include the status of Jerusalem, territorial integrity of all the countries of the Middle East, and especially the defensless borders of Lebanon, recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people ), there will most certainly be another war in the Middle East, and this one would be devastating.

Mr. President, we are happy to have had this opportunity to meet with you today. Please be assured of our continued support in any endeavors you may undertake which is in the best interest of our country. Arab Americans concerns, first and foremost, are for what is in America's best interest, and we dedicate ourselves to those who work towards that end. The National Association of Arab Americans feels it can be of substantive assistance to the U.S. in the area of Middle East politics, and we are ready and willing to place ourselves at your disposal whenever, and wherever the need should arise.

## UNITED NATIONS

WHEREAS, the United Nations was founded on broad principles of human rights and on the application of international law and international justice to the solution of world problems, and remains "the world's last best hope for peace"; and

WHEREAS, world developments in science, technology and communications confronts the nations and peoples of the world with challenges that require common responses; and these accomplishments can and must be harnessed to achieve remedies to the global issues of world hunger, environment, population pressures, and conservation of resources, problems that require international cooperation if they are to be resolved in the interests of mankind; and

WHEREAS, we perceive a crescendo of criticism against the United Nations in this country from political leaders, statesmen, journalists, and opinion-molders of varied political persuasions, a growing disenchantment which if not reversed bodes ill for our continued commitment to the world body; and

WHEREAS, much of the current criticism dwells upon actions taken at the 1974 U.N. General Assembly session, in particular those relating to the Palestine Liberation Organization, South Africa, and international economic relations; which actions require dispassionate examination rather than bitterness and rancor; and

WHEREAS, we continue to believe that the United Nations has been and remains the major vehicle for peace and progress in the world, and that its critics would do well to emphasize its successes and its accomplishments with the same fervor with which they accentuate its negative features.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Convention of the National Association of Arab Americans meeting in Washington, D.C. in May, 1975 calls upon our government to recommit this nation toward a strengthening of its dedication to the principles of the world body and to the goals of the United Nations Charter; and we urge that the United States assert its leadership role as a peacemaking force in the United Nations, and that it provide an example of positive thinking about the United Nations in an effort to quell the negativism of a growing body of critics in this country.

THESE RESOLUTIONS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED AT THE 3RD ANNUAL  
CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Mrs. Helen Haje  
1028 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Suite 723 A  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel: 785-0810

3rd Annual Convention  
May 8 - 11, 1975  
Shoreham-Americana Hotel  
Washington, D.C.

**RECOGNITION OF THE P.L.O. AS THE  
LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

**WHEREAS, the United States supports the principle of self-determination of all colonized people; and**

**WHEREAS, the Palestine Liberation Organization represents the political voice of the Palestinian people, and consists of elected representatives from all Palestinian organizations, including lawyers, teachers, doctors, journalists, women, labor and youth, and is strongly supported in the occupied territories; and**

**WHEREAS, the Arab Summit Conference held in Algiers in November, 1973, recognized the P.L.O. as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people wherever they may be; and**

**WHEREAS, the Islamic Summit Conference held in Lahore in the Spring of 1974 also recognized the P.L.O. as the sole representative of the Palestinians; and**

**WHEREAS, the Arab Summit Conference held in Rabat in October, 1974 strongly reaffirmed its earlier decision taken in Algiers recognizing the P.L.O. as the sole representative of the Palestinian people wherever they may be; and**

**WHEREAS, 105 nations have recognized the P.L.O. as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians wherever they may be; and**

**WHEREAS, the United Nations by its actions during and following the 1974 General Assembly has recognized the P.L.O. as the sole spokesman for the Palestinian people; and**

**WHEREAS, the United States is committed to initiatives on behalf of a just and enduring peace in the Middle East; and**

**WHEREAS, recognition by the U.S. of the P.L.O. can only serve to speed the pursuit of a just peace as well as affirm our country's commitment to the self-determination of peoples.**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Annual Convention of the National Association of Arab Americans meeting in Washington, D.C. in May, 1975, that we call upon our government to recognize officially the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.**



## A FREE PRESS ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONTROVERSY

WHEREAS, the American Press has based its case in the controversies over the publication of material pertaining to the issues of Vietnam and Watergate on "Freedom of the Press" and "The People's Right to Know"; and

WHEREAS, the Middle East could be another and a much worse "Vietnam"; and at stake in the Middle East are the economic welfare and security of the United States, the peace and prosperity of the world, and possibly the survival of mankind in a nuclear age; and

WHEREAS, the Arab/Israeli conflict in the Middle East has been one of the most poorly reported news stories in the history of American journalism, with the Israeli point of view being overwhelmingly presented and the non-Israeli sides rarely presented and often misrepresented; and

WHEREAS, the encouraging exception has been the brief period since the October, 1973 War when press reporting of this critical problem has made noteworthy advances in fairness of treatment, but remains prohibitively one-sided; and

WHEREAS, as American citizens who trace our ancestry to the Arabic speaking countries of the Middle East, we have been in a position to know both sides and are painfully aware of the "one sidedness" of the press in the United States; and

WHEREAS, all Americans who have been or are in a position to know both sides of the Arab/Israeli conflict would affirm the late President Eisenhower's statement to the U.N. about the Middle East, that there is no area of the globe as important to the Free World and about which there is so little accurate information and so much misinformation; and

WHEREAS, we fully appreciate the importance of an informed public opinion in the United States on the effectiveness of foreign policy and the working of our democratic system and are aware of how damaging to our domestic and international interests has been the lack of an informed public opinion on the Arab/Israeli conflict.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the National Association of Arab Americans, meeting in Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., in May, 1975 that we call on the American media to apply "Freedom of the Press" and "The People's Right to Know" to the Middle East situation. With the Middle East our most critical and priority world problem, it is high time for the media to "shed its shackles" and withstand the pressures that make for a one-sided presentation and to courageously and patriotically present both sides in the interests of the ideals of their profession and this great nation.

## U.S.--SOVIET DETENTE

WHEREAS, the Cold War has brought about an immense drain of resources among the major powers of the world; and

WHEREAS, the enormous cost of U.S. defense policies in Southeast Asia and throughout the world has stimulated inflation, caused neglect of vital domestic problems, and added to the instability of American currency; and

WHEREAS, the outlays by the U.S.S.R. for defense of Eastern European countries, the neglect of consumer and agricultural industries, and the huge expenditures on nuclear and other weapons in the arms race have added to the cost burdens of the Soviet economy; and

WHEREAS, the overkill capacity of the two superpowers is dangerously high, and serves to divert resources so vitally required to meet the burdensome needs of mankind; and

WHEREAS, a continuation of the strategic arms race adds a dangerous dimension to the handling of diplomatic crises in other parts of the world, undermines the chances of political, economic and cultural accommodation, and perpetuates a profound economic burden on our respective societies; and

WHEREAS, U.S.--Soviet detente has implications for the security of all nations, not just the superpowers; and

WHEREAS, detente among the major powers is the political reality that must be dealt with if we are to achieve the stability that will enable us to attend to the problems of other areas of the world where a reassessment of our foreign policy is so vitally needed; and

WHEREAS, the principal area of such current conflict, the Middle East, requires a just and lasting peace settlement if the threat of Great Power confrontation is to be avoided; and

WHEREAS, a gradual expansion of economic relations between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., through trade and investment, can in time give the superpowers a vested interest in peace, and the normalization of relations can assist in bringing about constructive changes in Soviet society and further enhance the conditions for lasting peace.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Convention of the National Association of Arab Americans meeting in Washington, D.C. in May, 1975 believing that accommodation between East and West is both possible and necessary stands behind our government's efforts to achieve detente with the Soviet Union, and to put a final end to the era of Cold War.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recognize that detente is a process, that its early stages will not suddenly usher in a world of law and justice, but that a beginning is essential if we are to avoid a nuclear Armageddon.



## AN APPEAL FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

WHEREAS, the National Association of Arab Americans wishes to appeal to those with whom we share a common humanity or citizenship of faith to unite in a common effort in pursuit of a lasting peace with justice in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, we express our deep concern that the conditions necessary for that peace be given the highest priority; namely, respect for human rights in the widest sense of the term, for all individuals and groups in the area; and

WHEREAS, we believe profoundly that the American government and the American people have a decisive role to play in bringing about justice and peace in the Middle East; that our government's partial and one-sided role has been in great part responsible for the continuing tragedy that unfolds in that critical part of the world, a tragedy which has had adverse effects on our economy, and a corruptive influence on our democratic institutions; and

WHEREAS, the past military hostilities and the conditions of institutionalized violence that have caused them can, if continued, envelop the peoples of the Middle East--and perhaps the world--in a conflagration that will dwarf, by comparison, wars of the past.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Convention of the National Association of Arab Americans meeting in Washington, D.C., in May 1975 urges responsible action and evaluation by the following institutions and groups with respect to the conflict in the Middle East. We call upon:

The U.S. Government: to reevaluate its one-sided stance on Middle East affairs; to work in concert with the world community of nations for a peace that recognizes the rights of all parties to the conflict; to undertake a reassessment of our Middle East policy that would encompass the root problems of Palestinian national interests, the occupation of Arab lands, the status of Jerusalem, and the security and territorial integrity of all states in the area.

The U.S. Legislators: to recognize that economic, political, and military conditions in the Middle East have been altered since October 1973 in such a way as to threaten worldwide disaster if a just and lasting solution, without war, is not found; and in this respect to resist knee-jerk political responses to the pressures of partisan political groups that would undermine efforts toward an impartial resolution of the conflict; and to act responsibly and courageously in the best interests of the United States, of all of the countries in the area, and of the world community of nations.

The U.S. Media, Press, Radio and Television: to present "both sides"--indeed "all sides"--of the issues with that sense of fairness which Americans consider to be a hallmark of our national character; to broaden the perception of cultural differences in order to avoid an inadvertent bias against the Arab point of view; to resist editorializing under the guise of reporting; to strive for better balance in human interest reporting; and to resist partisan pressures in the interest of fair play.

The U.S. Christian Churches: to fulfill their obligation of speaking out prophetically, even if unpopularly, for human dignity and rights, especially for the oppressed, dispossessed and forgotten; to oppose the misuse of theology and Scripture for the justification of conditions of injustice, a misuse which brings religion into disrepute; to work against racialism, especially anti-Semitism and anti-Arab feeling, which the Middle East conflict has aroused; to withstand the subtle and obvious pressures to abandon impartiality toward the human and political problems of the Middle East; and to seek a dialogue on the moral and religious dimensions of the issues with co-religionists and with the followers of Islam in the Arab world.

The American Jewish Community: who have a unique role in this challenge, to use its influence in fostering American and Israeli rethinking on the processes and procedures for achieving peace and justice in the Middle East; to make serious efforts to comprehend "the other side", and to overcome the stereotypes and myths which are prevalent regarding the Arab people; to understand that Arabs, too, and particularly Palestinian Christians and Moslems, are human beings who love their families and communities, are attached to the land of their forefathers, are aware of their rights, are sensitive to the oppression they have suffered, are anxious for the full human development of their peoples, and are fully committed to the continued pursuit of their rights to survive as a people.

American Labor Leaders: to broaden their perspective on the complex issues that divide the protagonists in the Middle East; to recognize in particular the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, the historical denial of that right (in which our nation shares a responsibility), and the need to repair the consequences of that denial; to resist the complacent belief that adherence to a rigid pro-Israeli posture is in fact in the best interests of the American people, or for that matter the Israeli people; to use their immense influence with American Jewish leaders in offering new perspectives and approaches to peace between the Arabs and Israelis; to recognize that the consequences of continued struggle in the Middle East has aggravated the burdens of inflation, recession, and higher unemployment on the membership of American trade unions, and that another war in the Middle East will bring even harsher realities for the American workers and all of the American people; to visit countries of the Middle East in an effort to gain a greater understanding of the goals and aspirations of the Arab people; and to encourage cultural and trade union interaction on a non-political people-to-people basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is our conviction that if the institutions and groups appealed to above would meet responsibly the moral and humanitarian challenges of the Middle East crisis, and apply the principles inherent in their democratic and religious traditions, that a most important contribution will be made to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS

Thursday, June 26, 1975

4:15 p.m. (10 minutes)

The Cabinet Room

From: Henry A. Kissinger

William Baroody, Jr.

I. PURPOSE

To receive the views of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), the main political organization representing the Arab American groups in the United States, on the situation in the Middle East.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

- A. Background: Aware of the many meetings at the White House for American Jewish groups, the NAAA has been seeking this opportunity for several months. This will be the first such meeting for an Arab American political group in some years, and, since the NAAA is the overall political umbrella for all Arab American groups, your meeting will be widely publicized within the community of over three million. It will be seen as further evidence of your stated desire to receive a broad spectrum of views during the reassessment period.

The NAAA was formed by a small group of Arab Americans concerned about a lack of political activity on the part of Arab Americans and the need for a political action group. It has 1.3 million members.

Its objectives include the promotion of ties between the Arab and American people, encouragement of political, social, cultural and educational activities, support to citizens of Arab ancestry, support to Members of Congress who support NAAA

CONFIDENTIAL (GDS)

By Authority of: Henry A. Kissinger

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 5/10/09

BY WA, NARA DATE 5/20/04



objectives, maintaining communication with government officials and encouraging better relations between the US and Arab states.

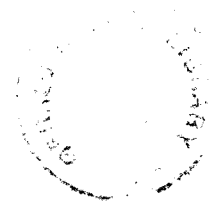
Through its monthly newspaper and Annual Convention (addressed by Mr. Sisco and Mr. Baroody in May), the NAAA is giving wider publicity to Administration positions on the Middle East. They are regarded as a responsible group and are sympathetic to your efforts to promote peace in the Middle East and improve US-Arab world relations.

The NAAA supports a negotiated solution to the Middle East problem but they want our strategy to be "even-handed" and in the "US national interest." They take strong exception to what they perceive as over support and over supply of Israel. But they are not like some small, extreme groups which call for the dismemberment of Israel and the creation of a Palestinian state in Israel proper. Rather, they support your efforts for an "equitable" settlement on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

Two issues are of special concern to the NAAA. The first is Lebanon, since many Arab Americans are of Christian Lebanese descent. They are deeply concerned about Israeli attacks on Lebanon and have made repeated appeals for the US to restrain Israel, and to affirm our policy of support for the independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

The second issue of importance to the NAAA is the Palestinian problem. They tend to support Arab positions that the Palestinians must be given some form of entity on the West Bank and Gaza, although, to our knowledge, they have not precisely articulated their views on final arrangements for the Palestinians. They are supportive of the PLO's political aspirations, although not its terrorist tactics.

Symptomatic of the frustrations the NAAA believes it represents are two recent messages to you. The first (Tab B) strongly protests the "pressure" tactic of the 76 Senators letter just prior to your meetings with Sadat and Rabin. It expresses confidence in your ability to promote an "even-handed" policy. The second message (Tab C) protests recent Israeli attacks on



Lebanon and urges the Administration to cut off military sales to Israel under the FMS program (invoking the Turkish analogy). We have not replied, since a personal meeting with you is the best response.

- B. Participants: List of the NAAA delegation is at Tab A. Mr. Baroody, General Scowcroft and I will also attend. We will just have completed a 15-minute briefing for the group.
- C. Press Arrangements: Meeting will be announced as part of your schedule. White House photo session at the beginning of the meeting.

### III. TALKING POINTS

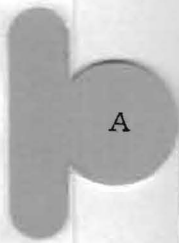
1. It is a great pleasure to welcome you here. I have appreciated your letters. It is very important for me to have a wide range of views, particularly in this period of reassessment and I am glad now to be able to meet with you.
2. I know that Secretary Kissinger has briefed you. I want to make one point very clear -- we are determined that the US will continue to play an active role in helping promote a fair and equitable settlement in the Middle East. In the absence of progress in the negotiations the chances of war will increase. Peace in the Middle East is in our national interest and in the interests of the parties and of world peace. We cannot and will not accept stagnation or stalemate.
3. We are reassessing the diplomatic options for helping move the parties closer to peace. I have consulted with a wide range of Americans and with Congress. I have also had extensive talks with the principal leaders in the area, including King Hussein, President Sadat, Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Khaddam. These talks have been most helpful.
4. We will be continuing our contacts through diplomatic channels in the period ahead. We are open to any approach, including Geneva, that holds solid hope for progress.

5. I appreciate the support which you have been giving for a negotiated solution in the Middle East. I have been gratified by the substantial improvement in US bilateral relations with the Arab world.
6. [If Lebanon is raised]: Be assured that the US stands by its position of support for the independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon. We have excellent relations with Lebanon -- a long-standing friend -- and we want to maintain those relations. We deplore all violence on the Israeli-Lebanese frontier, especially that which results in the loss of innocent lives. We are working toward peace to prevent just this kind of violence.
7. [If the Palestinian problem is raised]: We seek an overall settlement based on Resolutions 242 and 338, taking into account the legitimate interests of all peoples, including the Palestinians, and respect for the right of existence of all states in the area. Given the refusal of the PLO to recognize Israel's right to exist, the Israeli refusal to negotiate with the PLO, and the cycle of violence between them, it is not easy to see a way to resolve this problem right now. However, we are determined to do our best to see that it is ultimately resolved in a just and equitable manner.
8. [If US aid to Israel -- including NAAA views on cutting off aid to prevent attacks on Lebanon -- is raised]: I appreciate the concerns you have expressed. We believe that progress toward peace will obviate the kind of violence that has occurred. As far as new aid decisions, either to Israel or Arab states, none have yet been made. They are being considered as part of our overall reassessment.

Tab A - Participants  
Tab B - Message from NAAA  
Tab C - Message from NAAA



3b



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

List of Participants, June 26 meeting with the President.

National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA)

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Mr. Joseph Barody  
First Vice President, NAAA  
3819 Whitman Road  
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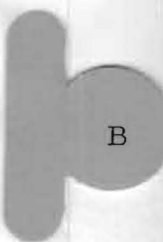
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Mr. Robert Thabit, Esq.  
Secretary, NAAA  
172 82nd Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11209

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TELEGRAM FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS

[Date May 23]

"Mr. President:

On behalf of over one million Americans of Arab heritage which the National Association of Arab Americans represents, I wish to express the deep concern over the most recent act of the 76 Senators in addressing a "pressure" letter to the President of the United States on the eve of your departure for a most serious meeting with the President of Egypt, President Anwar Sadat, and the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Rabin.

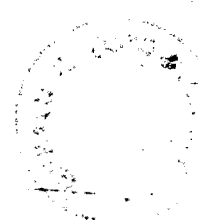
It is our prayer, Mr. President, that you will attend the meetings with only an attitude of doing what is in the best interest of the U.S., ignoring all pressure to the contrary from any "special interest" groups. We are confident, Mr. President, that you are interested in having the U.S. continue in its role as an interested party to any peace negotiations. Only if the U.S. displays an evenhanded and unbiased policy in the discussions and negotiations, can we be an effective mediator.

Attached is a copy of a mailgram which was sent to the 76 Members of the U.S. Senate who by their insensitivity to the seriousness of the matter, sought to weaken the effect of our forthcoming meetings.

Mr. President, our prayers to with you, and we anticipate a move towards settlement of the M. E. problem, through your dedication and avowed pledge to bring peace to that troubled area of the world.

Sincerely, Edmond N. Howar, President, National Association of Arab Americans

[Copy of attachment: "Dear Senator: The National Association of Arab Americans, which represents over a million Americans of Arab heritage, wishes to express its disappointment and grave concern over the insensitivity of the 76 Senators who, on the eve of President Gerald Ford's departure for meetings with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel, have acceded to Zionist pressure and signed a letter to President Ford, expressing their concern for only Israel.



PAGE 2

On this occasion, United States Senators should be showing their own independent strength and the strength and integrity of the United States Senate by being above such pressure tactics and by showing their concern for what is in the best interest of the U.S. At a time when the U.S. is going through an economic crisis, to see 76 U.S. Senators, most of whom have voted for cuts in the domestic budget, exhibiting more concern over the economic well-being and supply of unnecessary military equipment to Israel, is most frightening.

If the United States is to play an effective role in the peace negotiations of the Middle East, the U.S. Government must be unbiased and neutral. The excessive demands placed upon the U.S. by Israel, must not be met, in view of Israel's continuing policy of acquisition of territory through military force, with a determination to annex these illegally acquired territories. Let us remind you that there are no defensible borders in the Middle East, only legitimate acceptance in the area.

In closing, we wish to quote President Ford in a recent statement where he commented that he will "accept no stalemate or stagnation," and the signature of 76 Senators on a pressure letter is tantamount to "stalemate and stagnation." Every U.S. Senator has a duty and moral obligation to the citizens of this country, the U.S.A., to work for peace in the world and to defend liberty, not intransigencies and expansionism.

Sincerely, Edmond N. Howard, President, National Association of Arab Americans"



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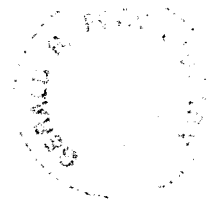
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THIS MAILGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY WESTERN UNION TO A POST OFFICE NEAR YOU FOR DELIVERY

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THE HONORABLE GERALD FORD  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON DC 20500



MR. PRESIDENT;

ON BEHALF OF OVER ONE MILLION AMERICANS OF ARAB HERITAGE WHICH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS REPRESENTS, I WISH TO EXPRESS THE DEEP CONCERN OVER THE MOST RECENT ACT OF 76 SENATORS IN ADDRESSING A "PRESSURE" LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ON THE EVE OF YOUR DEPARTURE FOR A MOST SERIOUS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT, PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT, AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, MR. RABIN.

IT IS OUR PRAYER, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT YOU WILL ATTEND THE MEETINGS WITH ONLY AN ATTITUDE OF DOING WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE U.S., IGNORING ALL PRESSURE TO THE CONTRARY FROM ANY "SPECIAL INTEREST" GROUPS. WE ARE CONFIDENT, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING THE U.S. CONTINUE IN ITS ROLE AS AN INTERESTED PARTY TO ANY PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. ONLY IF THE U.S. DISPLAYS AN EVENHANDED AND UNBIASED POLICY IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS, CAN WE BE AN EFFECTIVE MEDIATOR.

ATTACHED IS A COPY OF A MAILGRAM WHICH WAS SENT TO THE 76 MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE WHO BY THEIR INSENSIVITY TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MATTER, SOUGHT TO WEAKEN THE EFFECT OF OUR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

MR. PRESIDENT, OUR PRAYERS GO WITH YOU, AND WE ANTICIPATE A MOVE TOWARDS SETTLEMENT OF THE M.E. PROBLEM, THROUGH YOUR DEDICATION AND AVOWED PLEDGE TO BRING PEACE TO THAT TROUBLED AREA OF THE WORLD.

SINCERELY,

EDMOND N. HOWAR, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS  
SENATOR:

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS, WHICH REPRESENTS OVER A MILLION AMERICANS OF ARAB HERITAGE, WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS DISAPPOINTMENT AND GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE INSENSITIVITY OF THE 76 SENATORS WHO, ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT GERALD FORD'S DEPARTURE FOR MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT OF EGYPT AND PRIME MINISTER RABIN OF ISRAEL, HAVE ACCEDDED TO ZIONIST PRESSURE AND SIGNED A LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD, EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN FOR ONLY, ISRAEL.

ON THIS OCCASION, UNITED STATES SENATORS SHOULD BE SHOWING THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT STRENGTH AND THE STRENGTH AND INTEGRITY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE BY BEING ABOVE SUCH PRESSURE TACTICS;

THIS MAILGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY WESTERN UNION TO A POST OFFICE NEAR YOU FOR DELIVERY

AND BY SHOWING THEIR CONCERN FOR WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE U.S. AT A TIME WHEN THE U.S. IS GOING THROUGH AN ECONOMIC CRISIS, TO SEE 76 U.S. SENATORS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE VOTED FOR CUTS IN THE DOMESTIC BUDGET, EXHIBITING MORE CONCERN OVER THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AND SUPPLY OF UNNECESSARY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL, IS MOST FRIGHTENING.

IF THE UNITED STATES IS TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST BE UNBIASED AND NEUTRAL. THE EXCESSIVE DEMANDS PLACED UPON THE U.S. BY ISRAEL, MUST NOT BE MET, IN VIEW OF ISRAEL'S CONTINUING POLICY OF ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY THROUGH MILITARY FORCE, WITH A DETERMINATION TO ANNEX THESE ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED TERRITORIES. LET US REMIND YOU THAT THERE ARE NO DEFENSIBLE BORDERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ONLY LEGITIMATE ACCEPTANCE IN THE AREA.

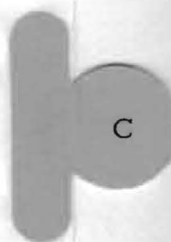
IN CLOSING, WE WISH TO QUOTE PRESIDENT FORD IN A RECENT STATEMENT WHERE HE COMMENTED THAT HE "WILL ACCEPT NO STALEMATE OR STAGNATION", AND THE SIGNATURE OF 76 SENATORS ON A PRESSURE LETTER IS TANTAMOUNT TO "STALEMATE AND STAGNATION". EVERY U.S. SENATOR HAS A DUTY AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY, THE U.S.A., TO WORK FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD, AND TO DEFEND LIBERTY; NOT INTRANGENCIES AND EXPANSIONISM.

SINCERELY,

EDMOND N. HOWAR, PRES, NATL ASSN OF ARAB AMERICANS,  
1028 CONNECTICUT AVE N.W. WASHINGTON D.C. 20036.

17:52 EST

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# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARAB AMERICANS

1028 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W. SUITE 723A  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

Telephone (202) 785-0810

May 14, 1975

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The Honorable Gerald Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

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The National Association of Arab Americans, in condemning the military aggression of the State of Israel against the defenseless and peaceful country of Lebanon submits that the United States can no longer allow Israel to continue its policy of "national terrorism" under the guise of self defense and retaliation.

Is it in the best interest of our country to continue to supply aid to Israel when she repeatedly violates the borders of her neighbors?

Mr. President, we insist that something be done at once. The continued misuse of force and terror against innocent civilians with military equipment furnished by the United States cannot be tolerated by this country.

The National Association of Arab Americans, once again calls upon the President of the United States, The Secretary of State and the Congress to immediately terminate all sales and grants of military aide to Israel, for Israel has again violated Section 4 of the Foreign Military Sales Act, which states that articles sold by the U.S. to Isreal under this act are solely for internal security purposes and legitimate self-defense, and the recent raids and attacks on Lebanon are neither. Israel must be declared ineligible for further assistance and military aide at once. A forceful declaration must be immediately forthcoming from the government of the United States. Israel's flagrant disregard for the lives of innocent human beings can no longer be tolerated.

Sincerely,

Edmond Howar  
Edmond Howar  
President

