

90376

RECEIVED
EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

02 JUN 8 P4: 50

שגרירות ישראל
ושינגטון

135343

~~TOP SECRET~~

A0/480

6 June 1982

Dear Mr. President:

I have been asked by Prime Minister Begin to transmit to you the following message:

"Dear Mr. President, Dear Friend,

I thank you for your letter of June 4. Your words of sympathy, friendship and understanding touched me deeply.

I am in permanent contact with the surgeon -- a wonderful man -- who operated on Ambassador Argov. His last call from London came yesterday evening; the good doctor informed me that he still cannot make a definite prognosis. It seems already clear, however, that if the Ambassador survives the assassination attempt he will be left paralyzed. Nothing can be determined as yet about how his intellectual faculties will function.

Very early this morning, Mr. President, I received your second letter dated June 6 for which I thank you. I feel it my duty, in answering it, to describe to you the real situation.

For the last seventy-two hours, twenty-three of our towns, townships and villages in Galilee have been under the constant shelling of Soviet-supplied heavy artillery and katyusha rockets by the "PLO" terrorists. Tens of thousands of men women and children remain day and night in shelters. We have suffered casualties. The terrorists are aiming their guns exclusively at the civilian population. There are many military targets in the area; these are completely "immune". The purpose of the enemy is to kill -- to kill Jews, men, women and children. Is there a nation in the world that would tolerate such a situation which, after the cessation of hostilities agreement, has repeated itself time and again?

.../2

DECLASSIFIED

NLRRM4371/135343

BY RW NARA DATE 6/23/15

~~TOP SECRET~~

-2-

The question is clearly answered in the most recent action of the United Kingdom which is now waging a full-fledged war eight thousand miles from its shores in the name of Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Mr. President, the bloodthirsty aggressor against us is on our doorstep. Do we not have "the inherent right to self-defense?" Does not Article 51 of the Charter apply to us? Is the Jewish State an exception to all the rules applying to all other nations? The answer to these questions is enshrined in the questions themselves.

Mr. President, the Government of Israel decided to do its best to put an end to this intolerable situation. The army has been instructed to push back the terrorists to a distance of forty kilometers to the north so that all our civilians in the region of Galilee will be set free of the permanent threat to their lives.

We do not covet one inch of Lebanese territory. We wish to sign a peace treaty with a free, independent Lebanon that will preserve its territorial integrity. But it is our duty to make sure that our citizens and their families can live peacefully and carry on their daily lives without a lurking permanent threat of sudden death.

I do hope, Mr. President, that you will take into consideration the unique situation in which we find ourselves as a result of the repeated aggression against us perpetrated by a Soviet-promoted terrorist organization bent on shedding the blood of our people in the Land and abroad.

We shall do our sacred duty. So help us God.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

(sd.)
Menachem"

Sincerely,


Moshe Arens
Ambassador

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: HEAD OF STATE FILE

Withdrawer

CAS 4/25/2012

File Folder ISRAEL: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN (8290376-8290579)

FOIA

M11-437

Box Number 17

BUNCH

2

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
135345	CABLE	TOSEC 080155	2	6/6/1982	B1
135346	LETTER	SAME TEXT AS 135343 R 6/23/2015 M437/1	2	6/6/1982	B1
135343	LETTER	FROM MOSHE ARENS TRANSMITTING TEXT OF LETTER FROM PM BEGIN TO RR R 6/23/2015 M437/1	2	6/6/1982	B1
135344	LETTER	COPY OF 135343 R 6/23/2015 M437/1	2	6/6/1982	B1
135336	MEMO	WILLIAM CLARK TO RR RE LETTER TO YOU FROM PM BEGIN	1	ND	B1
135337	NOTE	BUD TO JUDGE CLARK RE LETTER FROM RR TO PM BEGIN R 6/23/2015 M437/1	1	6/10/1982	B1
135338	DRAFT LETTER	RR TO BEGIN R 6/23/2015 M437/1	3	ND	B1
135347	LETTER	FROM MOSHE ARENS TRANSMITTING A LETTER FROM BEGIN TO RR	1	6/26/1982	B1
135339	NOTE	BUD MCFARLANE TO CLARK RE LETTER FROM RR TO BEGIN	1	7/6/1982	B1

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.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: HEAD OF STATE FILE

Withdrawer

CAS 4/25/2012

File Folder ISRAEL: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN (8290376-8290579)

FOIA

M11-437

Box Number 17

BUNCH

2

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
135340	DRAFT LETTER	RR TO BEGIN	2	ND	B1
135348	CABLE	STATE 141678	4	5/23/1982	B1
135341	DRAFT LETTER	RR TO BEGIN	2	5/20/1982	B1
135349	MEMO	L. PAUL BREMER TO CLARK RE 5/24 MESSAGE FROM PM BEGIN	1	5/25/1982	B1
135350	LETTER	FROM MOSHE ARENS TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE FROM PM BEGIN TO RR	2	5/24/1982	B1
135342	DRAFT LETTER	RR TO BEGIN	2	8/30/1982	B1
135351	CABLE	RE AMERICAN INITIATIVE: INFORMING ISRAEL	6	8/30/1982	B1

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.