

[4/3/79-Not Submitted] [CF, O/A 548]

Folder Citation: Collection: Office of Staff Secretary; Series: Presidential Files; Folder: [4/3/79-Not Submitted] [CF, O/A 548]; Container 112

To See Complete Finding Aid:

http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/findingaids/Staff_Secretary.pdf

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Not
submitted

were submitted
in energy
purchase

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4/3

Received too late; at-Host
already in the country -
Ed Sanders wants to
WITHDRAW This memo.

File

4 Sep

1336

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4/3/79

rick/bill simon

per discussion...president
has not yet seen.

--SSC

P approved
Voice memo 3/28 '79
Bill Amount
He is expected here
in few days

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

EDWARD SANDERS *ES*

SUBJECT:

Visa for Shafiq al-Hout

I was startled to learn that the State Department has forwarded to you a recommendation that Mr. Shafiq al-Hout, Director of the PLO Office in Beirut, be granted a visa to visit and lecture in the United States.

I believe that the granting of a visa to Mr. al-Hout at this time is a direct contravention of stated policy of the Department of State and could materially interfere with the peace process.

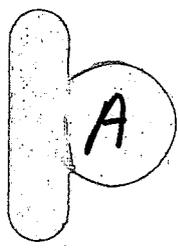
On September 11, 1978 the State Department assured Representative Solarz and others that "As a matter of policy we consider any official of the PLO, and its designated or self-proclaimed agents or spokesmen, ineligible for visas." As Director of the PLO's Beirut office, Mr. al-Hout is a ranking "official" of the PLO, whose entry should be barred by the criteria enunciated by the Department of State.

Furthermore, it seems to me that the admission of a PLO official at this time will increase anxieties in Israel, diminish confidence in us, and will be viewed as a precursor of dealings with the PLO.

It is my view that the granting of a visa to Mr. al-Hout will materially interfere with the peace process and create an unnecessary furor in Israel and here in the United States. I recommend that you reject the recommendation of the State Department.

Attachment:

Tab 1 - letter to Stephen J. Solarz
dated September 11, 1978



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

September 11, 1978

The Honorable
Stephen J. Solarz
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Solarz:

Thank you for your letter of August 30 and for the opportunity to comment both on the McGovern Amendment and on Administration policy regarding admission of terrorists to the United States.

The McGovern Amendment provides that the Secretary of State should recommend a waiver of visa ineligibility for persons who are ineligible solely on grounds of membership in or affiliation with a "proscribed" organization, but who are otherwise admissible to the United States. Terrorists or advocates of terrorism are ineligible for admission under U.S. law for reasons other than membership in a proscribed organization, so the McGovern Amendment in no way increases the likelihood that such people will enter the United States.

Although the PLO is an umbrella organization which includes a number of factions and individuals who hold different views on terrorism, the Department clearly recognizes that significant elements of the PLO do advocate, carry out or accept responsibility for acts of terrorism. As a matter of policy we consider any official of the PLO, and its designated or self-proclaimed agents or spokesmen, ineligible for visas.

This ineligibility may be waived under existing law, but it is in no way affected by the McGovern Amendment and the Department of State has no desire to ease entry restrictions on such persons. We are fully aware that the Congress did not intend that the McGovern Amendment be interpreted to allow terrorists greater access to the United States.

As you noted, the McGovern Amendment was enacted as a demonstration of the U.S. commitment to the free travel provisions of the Helsinki Final Act. The McGovern Amendment has assumed substantial importance throughout the world as a symbol of American support for the Helsinki Declaration. At a time when immigration from the Soviet Union and reunification of Soviet and Eastern European citizens with relatives in the West is an important concern of Americans, the Department believes it is critically important not to reverse this sign of American willingness to improve its own record in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act.

Sincerely,

9/

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.

Cleared:

- NEA - Mr. Draper
- L - Mr. Smallo
- CA - Mr. Horat

H:DBennet
September 11, 1978