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AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W. • SUITE 412 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • (202) 638-2256

Thomas A. Dine  
Executive Director

April 3, 1985

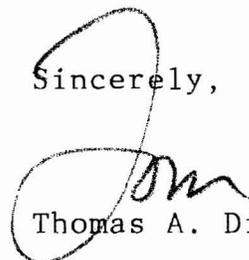
Mr. Marshall Breger  
Office of the President  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Marshall:

Enclosed are copies of letters to various  
Administration leaders involved in the recent  
humanitarian effort to save Ethiopian Jewry.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Dine

TAD:af

Enclosures

AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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Thomas A. Dine  
Executive Director

March 29, 1985

Mr. Robert C. McFarlane  
National Security Advisor  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Bud:

I want to add my personal thanks to those of the officers and membership of AIPAC for the magnificent role that you played in the rescue of Ethiopian Jews.

We have always known you as a sincere friend of Israel and the Jewish people. But what you, the Vice President, and President have done in these last few weeks is truly extraordinary. As a result of your intervention, 800 Jews who were near death have been saved, and their dream of returning to Jerusalem -- after 2,500 years -- has been fulfilled.

Because of our unique history of persecution, we Jews have always had a special category reserved for those non-Jews who have gone our of their way to save Jews. We call these people "Righteous Gentiles." Bud, you have earned that appellation.

I would appreciate it if you would pass on our sincerest thanks to all members of your staff who played a role in this operation.

We are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Dine

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Thomas A. Dine  
Executive Director

March 29, 1985

General Charles Gabriel  
Air Force Chief of Staff  
The Pentagon  
Room 4-E 925  
Washington, DC 20330

Dear General Gabriel:

On behalf of the officers and membership of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, I want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the magnificent role you and the officers and men of the United States Air Force played in the rescue of Ethiopian Jews. The efficient and effective implementation of such a complex operation is a tribute to the dedication and skill of you and the men and women you lead.

What makes your role particularly special, and your involvement with the operation worthy of such praise, is that you have taken people who were about to die, and turned their dream of returning once again to Jerusalem -- after 2,500 years -- into a reality.

I would appreciate it if you would pass on to all the individuals involved in the operation our sincerest thanks.

We are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Dine

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Thomas A. Dine  
Executive Director

April 2, 1985

The Honorable George Shultz  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Officers, members, and staff of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, I want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the magnificent role that you and your department played in the rescue of Ethiopian Jews. Your commitment of American diplomacy helped save 800 lives.

We have always known you as a sincere friend of Israel and the Jewish people. But what you have done in these last few weeks is truly extraordinary. As a result of your intervention, 800 Jews who were near death have been saved, and their dream of returning to Jerusalem -- after 2500 years -- has been fulfilled.

I would appreciate it if you would pass on our sincerest thanks to all members of your staff involved in the operation.

We are deeply grateful.

I look forward to seeing and hearing you at the AIPAC Policy Conference on April 21.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas A. Dine

TAD:gcs

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Thomas A. Dine  
Executive Director

March 29, 1985

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Room 3E880  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the officers and membership of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, I want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the magnificent role that you and your department played in the rescue of Ethiopian Jews. Your commitment of American military capabilities saved 800 lives.

What makes your role particularly special, and your involvement with the operation worthy of such praise, is that you have taken people who were about to die, and turned their dream of returning once again to Jerusalem -- after 2,500 years -- into a reality.

I realize that this was a complex operation involving not only the U.S. Air Force but also the Military Airlift Command, EURCOM, and CENTCOM. The fact that it was carried out with such complete efficiency is a testimony to the dedication and skill of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Defense Department.

I would appreciate it if you would pass on our sincerest thanks to all those involved in the operation.

Caspar Weinberger

- 2 -

March 29, 1985

We are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Dine

TAD:af

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Thomas A. Dine  
Executive Director

March 29, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the officers and membership of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, I want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your significant humanitarian effort to save Ethiopian Jewry. As a result of your willingness to commit American diplomacy and American military capabilities to that effort, 800 Jewish lives have been saved.

What makes the rescue of these Jews particularly special, and your involvement with the operation worthy of such praise, is that for centuries these people have repeated the prayer which ends the Passover service -- "Next year in Jerusalem." They have lived in the wilderness for 2,500 years, cut off from their co-religionists, yet have successfully maintained the Jewish traditions and culture in the face of untold hardships. Now these Ethiopian Jews can finally fulfill that Passover prayer and next week celebrate Passover in Jerusalem. You have made their dream come true.

You have earned the deep-felt gratitude not only of the Ethiopian Jews you rescued, but also of Israel, of the American Jewish community, and of all those who care about relieving human suffering and providing a free and democratic environment in which the human spirit can thrive.

Ronald Reagan

- 2 -

March 29, 1985

We are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Dine

TAD:af

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444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W. • SUITE 412 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • (202) 638-2256

Thomas A. Dine  
Executive Director

March 29, 1985

The Honorable George Bush  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the officers and membership of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, I want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the personal and indispensable role that you played in the magnificent humanitarian effort to save Ethiopian Jewry. As a result of your direct intervention with President Nimeri, 800 Jewish lives have been saved.

What makes the rescue of these Jews particularly special, and your involvement with the operation worthy of such praise, is that for centuries these people have repeated the prayer which ends the Passover service -- "Next year in Jerusalem." They have lived in the wilderness for 2,500 years, cut off from their co-religionists, yet have successfully maintained the Jewish traditions and culture in the face of untold hardships. Now these Ethiopian Jews can finally fulfill that Passover prayer and next week celebrate Passover in Jerusalem. You have made their dream come true.

You have earned the deep-felt gratitude not only of the Ethiopian Jews you rescued, but also of Israel, of the American Jewish community, and all those who care about relieving human suffering and providing a free and democratic environment in which the human spirit can thrive.

George Bush

- 2 -

March 29, 1985

We are deeply grateful, and will not forget  
the role you have played.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Dine

TAD:af

bcc: Gordon Zacks