

2728  
non

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 16, 1975

Your Majesty:

I want to convey to you my very warmest greetings and to tell you how much I am looking forward to my discussions with you during your visit April 29.

In the interim, I want to assure you that we are acutely conscious of the fact that the United States continues to be the only power which is in a position to help assure progress toward peace in the Middle East. You have my pledge that this continues to be our goal. The purpose of our continuing reassessment is not to determine whether we should remain engaged in the peacemaking process, but rather to decide on how best we should proceed.

The issues we are considering are extremely complex and sensitive, and I have therefore asked Ambassador Pickering to report to you orally on our deliberations during his visit here. In addition, I have asked him also to explain to you that we are prepared to release for sale to Jordan certain air defense weapons systems. He will provide you with additional details on this subject and discuss with you our continuing military supply relationship.

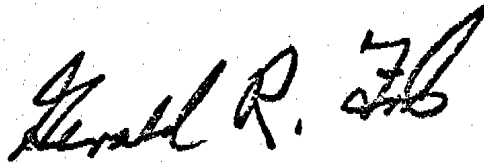
I know of your great concern for your country in the event of a further conflict in the Middle East. We are doing all we can to insure that such a conflict does not take place, and this is a central consideration in our reassessment. You can also be sure that we will leave

- 2 -

Israel under no doubt that we would consider it a dangerous and most serious event if they used military force, unprovoked, against the territory or independence of your country.

In closing let me say how much I look forward to your visit here and to the talks that we will be having at that time. You have my best wishes for a safe journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the center of the page.

His Majesty  
Hussein I,  
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
Amman

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 16, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

I am taking advantage of Ambassador Eilts' return to send you this brief message together with my warmest greetings.

I want you to know that I remain strongly concerned about the impasse that has developed. As I said in my State of the World speech, the active role of the United States to move matters forward must and will be continued. I have pledged the United States to a major effort for peace in the Middle East and will not accept either stagnation or a stalemate in that effort.

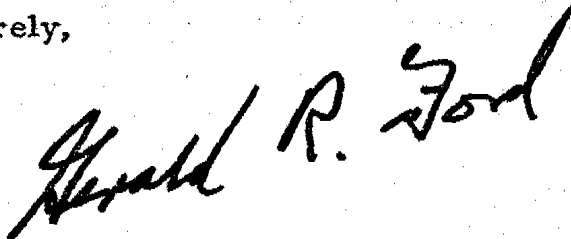
As you know, we are currently conducting an intensive reassessment of our Middle East policy. This is still going on. The issues involved in the Middle East problem are sensitive and complex, and I have therefore asked Ambassador Eilts to convey to you orally our current thinking. I would, of course, welcome any views you may have. Once the reassessment is completed, I will again be in touch with you.

You discussed with Vice President Rockefeller the possibility that we might meet somewhere in Europe. I welcome that opportunity and would like to suggest a

- 2 -

meeting, perhaps in early June. I have asked Ambassador Eilts to discuss details with you. I share your view that something tangible should come out of that meeting in order to further cement the relations between our two countries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "F".

His Excellency  
Anwar al-Sadat  
President of the  
Arab Republic of Egypt  
Cairo

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

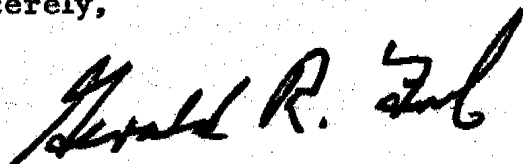
April 16, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

I take the occasion of Ambassador Murphy's return to Damascus to affirm to you directly my determination that the United States will remain fully engaged in the search for a just peace in the Middle East. Ambassador Murphy has been participating in our policy reassessment and is in a position to explain to you our current thinking. Because the issues we are considering are both sensitive and complex, I thought it preferable that he report to you personally and orally on our deliberations during his visit here. I shall for my part welcome your ideas on how we should all proceed to avoid a stalemate.

The Ambassador brings with him my warmest personal regards to you, Mr. President.

Sincerely,



His Excellency  
Hafiz al-Asad  
President of the Syrian  
Arab Republic  
Damascus