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Strictly Personal and Confidential – Via FedEx

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Re: American Policy Toward Palestinians = The Key to Middle-East Peace

This is a plea from a 229-member monthly public-policy study group that I have facilitated for the past 18 years. Its participants from around the country include many attorneys and professors.

We thank you very much for all of the tireless efforts being exerted by you and your administration!

To assist, we would like to offer a suggestion regarding the Arab-Israeli peace process.

For the last 75 years, the focus has been on "land for peace" - in other words, an attitude toward the Palestinians that "You can have your own country if you stop bothering everyone else."

But that won't solve the real problem which is the economic plight of the Palestinians.

The website for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency which runs the Palestinian refugee camps, reports that the number of refugees has grown from 750,000 in 1950 to 5.9 million today. The U.N. refugee camps are located in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank and the refugees live in abject poverty.

[The U.N. Relief and Works Agency website discloses that 897,485 registered Palestinian refugees live in the 27 U.N. refugee camps in Gaza and the West Bank.]

Indeed, the CIA's website discloses that before the recent hostilities in Gaza began, the standard of living (real GDP per capita) for Gaza's 2.0 million inhabitants is only \$6,220 per capita and for the West Bank's 3.0 million is only \$5,400 per capita – which is well below the "poverty line" in the U.S. – AND ONLY 9.0% OF REAL U.S. GDP PER CAPITA AND 13.6% OF REAL ISRAELI GDP PER CAPITA.

What is necessary is a good education for the Palestinian children and training for the adults so that they can handle jobs that would go with economic development (construction, irrigation, manufacturing, etc.). Following a careful assessment of the comparative strengths that Palestine would possess.

The U.S. began providing Egypt and Israel with \$6 billion/year of economic aid when they signed their 1979 Peace Agreement. It would seem a comparable amount would be a small price to pay to provide a real solution to a conflict that has festered for 75 years and, with nuclear arms soon to permeate the area, could soon produce a nuclear holocaust that might lead to "the twilight of the humans"!

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Karls
JD, Harvard Law School, 1967
Who's Who in American Law, 1988-2003
Who's Who in America, 1988-2003
Who's Who in the World, 1994-2003