



JUL 23 1990
Governor Atiyeh

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

Lawrence Douglas Wilder
Governor

July 16, 1990

The Honorable Victor Atiyeh
Suite 208
519 S. W. Park
Portland, Oregon 97205

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

Thank you for your letter regarding my June 11, 1990, speech on the Middle East to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. I appreciate hearing your views on this difficult and sensitive issue.

Since the date of my speech, the United States has suspended its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) because the PLO has failed to discipline those responsible for the Palestine Liberation Front's (PLF) May 30, 1990, attack against Israel. I am hopeful that the parties can resolve their differences and reestablish the dialogue at an early date. It is essential for the United States to seek peace in the Middle East and to encourage dialogue that addresses the legitimate rights of Israel and its neighbors.

As I stated on June 11, I strongly believe that all nations must renounce terrorism and respect internationally-recognized human rights. I will continue to speak out against any government or organization, friend and foe alike, that sponsors or condones terrorist acts or disregards basic human rights.

I was very encouraged in December, 1988, when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat recognized Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism. Without question, those statements greatly assisted the Middle East peace process. It is my hope that the PLO will continue to voice support for these statements and will take the appropriate steps in response to the PLF's recent attack so that all parties may continue the search for peace in what clearly is one of the world's most volatile areas.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me on this issue.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence Douglas Wilder".
Lawrence Douglas Wilder

LDW:end

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANT & TRADE

July 30, 1990

The Honorable Lawrence D. Wilder
Office of the Governor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Wilder,

You should know that I served six years in the Oregon House of Representatives, fourteen years in the State Senate, and--of course--eight years as Governor.

During that time I have received and written thousands upon thousands of letters and long ago learned to "read" them. It is clear to me by reading your "personalized" letter with the hand stamped signature that you have no intention to spend the time to reasearch either the "Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights Practices for 1988".

That is a tragedy. That sad state of affairs is compounded by quoting from your letter: "I will continue to speak out against any government or organization, friend and foe alike, that sponsors or condones terrorists acts or disregards basic human rights" (my emphasis).

If you cannot, or will not, research the reports I noted for you, please take only ten minutes sometime to read the enclosed. It is an extract from the Database document. Remember this is just for the period of December 8, 1987 to December 1988. The total deaths in that time frame was 433. Maybe you can rationalize some of the shootings, but can you rationalize, but can you rationalize them all -- or even most of them. Would you not at least question #38 or #10? And please recall it is Palestinians with stones and the Israeli military with guns.

I am not necessarily asking you to side with the Palestinians. I am merely asking you to open up your eyes and your heart.

Sincerely,

Victor Atiyeh