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The American Jewish
Committee

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DUP - FCO / ISR
DUP - Bush, George (Pres)
X - FAI MID / AR - I B
4/11/91
Office of the President

Institute of Human Relations
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212 751-4600/FAX: 212 319-0975

April 11, 1991

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American Jewish Committee wishes to express our deep appreciation for your efforts to advance Japan's diplomatic and economic relationship with Israel. These efforts are important to Israel's well-being and to the shared aim of achieving a more stable and peaceful Middle East.

We were delighted to learn that this subject came up in your meeting last week with Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu. We are hopeful that your personal interest in the matter will indeed spur the Japanese Government to consider taking additional steps to broaden and deepen the bilateral relationship with Israel, including a clear statement of policy by Tokyo that any Japanese private corporation compliance with the Arab economic boycott against Israel will not be countenanced. In this respect, we believe, the United States has served as a model for countering the pernicious effects of the boycott.

With gratitude and best wishes.

Respectfully,

Sholom D. Comay
President

David A. Harris
Executive Vice President

SDC/DAH:dw

APRIL 11, 1991 LETTER TO BUSH RE JAPAN PRIME MINISTER'S
MEETING WITH HIM THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL ON JAPANESE
DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

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DUP - Bush, George (Pres)
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IX/FA/MID/AR-IIB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

6/18/91

June 18, 1991

JUN 27 1991

Dear David:

Thank you for your kind letter of April 11 to President Bush concerning his efforts to advance Japan's diplomatic and economic relationship with Israel. The President has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

As you are aware, United States Government officials have pressed the Japanese government on a number of occasions about its attitude toward the Arab boycott. At the U.S.-Japan Subcabinet Consultations in January, 1991, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Richard McCormack asked the Japanese to enact anti-boycott legislation. The Japanese responded that the Government of Japan was against the boycott, but did not have control over actions of individual companies. They stated that such legislation was not appropriate for Japan.

As you noted in your letter, the issue was also discussed at the summit meeting between President Bush and Prime Minister Kaifu at Newport Beach, California on April 4. Following that meeting, Prime Minister Kaifu made a public statement describing the boycott as "undesirable."

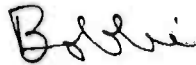
Deputy Foreign Minister Owada visited Israel February 24-25, reportedly to attempt to improve relations following a shutdown of banking business due to the Gulf War. Following up on this trip, Foreign Minister Nakayama visited Israel May 30-June 1, in an effort to strenghten ties with that country.

In another encouraging development, Toyota has announced that it will begin exporting cars to Israel, and other major Japanese companies which have not done business with Israel are said to be considering similar moves.

The Administration is continuing to press the Japanese on this important issue.

Thank you once again for sharing your views with us.

Sincerely,



Bobbie Kilberg
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

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FYI

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