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Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992

Box 69, Folder 12, Palestine Liberation Organization - Yasser Arafat, 1988.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date December 13, 1988
to David Jaffe, FAX # 313-962-0176
from Marc Tanenbaum
subject AJC Response to Arafat speech

Missed you and Erica last week in Detroit. Following is AJC's response to the Arafat speech ~~in Detroit~~:

While we find some positive aspects in today's Arafat's address in Geneva, overall it is disappointing. It hardly advances the search for Middle East peace when it clearly evades the minimum requirements set forth by the United States and Israeli governments as prerequisites for serious peace talks. Arafat still does not speak in terms of clear-cut acceptance of Israel's right to exist as an independent sovereign state, and for unconditional rejection of terrorism. After years of justifiable mistrust of PLO's ideology and behavior, we would be remiss indeed if we accepted Arafat's words at face value. Let him speak now in clear, unambiguous words and match his words with deeds. Today's news from Israel, of increased violence in the territories, contradicts his presumed peaceful intentions.