

1974-8-12 Assad, Nixon, Letter

UNCLASSIFIEDMEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT  
THE WHITE HOUSESubject: Letter from the President  
to President Asad

Attached is a draft of a letter to President Asad of Syria for the President's signature which we would propose to have delivered personally by our new Ambassador to Syria, Mr. Richard W. Murphy, on presentation of his credentials to President Asad.

Ambassador Murphy will be our first Ambassador in Damascus since diplomatic relations were broken at the time of the Arab-Israeli War in 1967. The decision to resume diplomatic relations and appoint Ambassadors was announced jointly by President Nixon and President Asad during the President's visit to Damascus, June 15-16. This makes it particularly fitting for President Ford to send with Ambassador Murphy a personal letter to President Asad.

Ambassador Murphy plans to depart for Syria in the next few days.

If the President agrees, it is recommended that the signed letter from the President be delivered to the Department by August 13 so that Ambassador Murphy may carry it with him when he leaves Washington for Damascus.

Samuel R. Gammon  
Acting Executive Secretary

Attachment

Draft Letter for President's Signature.

Drafted: NEA/ARN:DAKorn:dav Clearances: NEA - Mr. Atherton  
x22670 8/12/74 NEA - Mr. Saunders

UNCLASSIFIEDSuggested Message

Dear Mr. President:

Following the resumption of full diplomatic relations between our nations, I am very pleased to send Richard W. Murphy as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Syrian Arab Republic and my personal representative to you. I am confident that our exchange of Ambassadors will strengthen further the relations between our nations, building upon the close consultations between our two Governments in months past. I am particularly pleased to be sending Ambassador Murphy, a man of long experience in the Arab world, to this important assignment. He has my full confidence.

I am aware how much President Nixon and Secretary Kissinger have valued their relationship with you. I am deeply gratified by the progress which our two countries have made toward better mutual understanding and toward building a durable relationship for the future. Ambassador Murphy will carry our efforts forward and I assure

His Excellency  
Hafez al-Asad,  
President of the Syrian Arab Republic,  
Damascus.

Department of State

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you that the United States will do everything possible to promote friendly and constructive ties with your Government.

I also want to assure you, Mr. President, that the United States remains firm in its commitment to assist the parties in achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. In that regard, the United States looks forward to working closely with Syria in the period ahead toward the achievement of this great goal.

I have asked Ambassador Murphy, in carrying this letter to you, to convey my own personal best wishes for the continued health and well being of you and your family.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford

Drafted: NEA/ARN:DAKorn:dav  
x22670 8/9/74

Clearances: NEA - Mr. Saunders *KS*  
NEA - Mr. Atherton *KS*