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American Jewish Committee
A Century of Leadership

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August 13, 2008

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: **Pardon Application for Charles Winters**

Dear President Bush:

The American Jewish Committee would like to be included among the voices supporting a posthumous pardon for Charles "Charlie" Winters. We understand that posthumous pardons are rare but also believe that the case of Mr. Winters warrants an exception to the general rule.

Mr. Winters' assistance was critical to the nascent state of Israel as it fought for its very survival in the years following its 1948 declaration of independence. He had the courage and fortitude to do the right thing in a time of moral failing on the part of other world actors. We dare not imagine what the consequences would have been for Israel's existence had Mr. Winters not taken the actions he did.

Of striking notice is the fact that two others convicted along with Mr. Winters for their efforts to support Israel in her time of crisis have already been pardoned. It would be an injustice to deny Mr. Winters similar absolution. Indeed, although Mr. Winters passed away in 1984, a pardon remains important to both his family and his legacy.

AJC urges you to grant the pardon application for Charlie Winters, a friend of Israel and an American hero.

Respectfully,

David A. Harris

cc: The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001