

George A. Smathers Libraries
Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives
Special & Area Studies Collections

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June 16, 2008

Ms. Gina A. Haschke
WilmerHale
1875 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Haschke:

I very strongly support the petition to pardon Charles Winters posthumously. I have been collecting material on the subject of American volunteers in Israel's War of Independence since 1982 for the University of Florida Libraries. In my opinion, the sentence given to Winters was the most unjust of all of about a dozen persons indicted and tried for violating U.S. neutrality or embargo policy following the war of 1948-49.

In different venues, no other person was forced to serve a prison sentence. Only Charlie Winters was given that punishment.

The U.S. embargoed arms to Israel, while, ironically, President Harry Truman was the first world leader to recognize Israel, and while our closest ally, the United Kingdom, continued to provide arms free to Trans-Jordan and sell arms to Egypt, both of which were invading Israel in violation of United Nations Resolution 181 dictating a Jewish State and an Arab State in the former British mandate of Palestine.

Most others involved with delivering arms to Israel to defend herself against these invading armies have now been pardoned. It is only proper that the United States now deal a measure of justice to the Winters family by giving their father the same treatment.

Sincerely yours,



Ralph L. Lowenstein
Director
Aliyah Bet and Machal Archives, and
Dean Emeritus
College of Journalism and Communications