

WHS-660229-005

WILMERHALE

July 4, 2008

+1 202 663 6000 (t)
+1 202 663 6363 (f)
wilmerhale.com

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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

RECEIVED
JUL 22
AGENCY BRANCH
SCANNER

Dear Mr. President and Attorney General Mukasey:

Attached is a posthumous pardon application for Charles (“Charlie”) Thompson Winters, submitted by his son, James “Jim” Winters, and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. Charlie was convicted and served time in prison for violating the Neutrality Act in 1949 as a result of his role in efforts to provide airplanes and other supplies for Israel’s defense in the War of Independence. Following his sentence, Charlie led a quiet and honorable life in South Florida and passed away in 1984.

We do not anticipate that this application will require an extended factual investigation. The events surrounding Charlie’s conviction are well documented in a number of books covering American involvement in Israel’s War of Independence. *See, e.g., Destination: Israel, How a Handful of Rag-Tag Flyers Helped to Save a Newborn Nation* (Livingston 1994); *I Am My Brother’s Keeper: American Volunteers in Israel’s War for Independence* (Weiss and Weiss 1998); and *The Secret Army* (Bercuson 1983). Charlie’s actions and character are also highlighted in the collection of letters that accompany this application, including letters from the submitters and contemporaries such as Harold Livingston and Al Schwimmer (recently pardoned for his own violation of the Neutrality Act by President Clinton).

We encourage you both to review these materials personally, as they recount extraordinary acts of courage by fellow Americans who stood up for Israel and core American values when it mattered most. Charlie was a real American hero, and we very much hope you will choose to honor his memory with a posthumous pardon for his offense.

The Honorable George W. Bush
The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey
July 4, 2008
Page 2

WILMERHALE

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Brown". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Reginald J. Brown
Gina A. Haschke
Erica Ross

cc: Mr. Ronald Rodgers, U.S. Pardon Attorney
Mr. Kenneth Lee, Office of Counsel to the President