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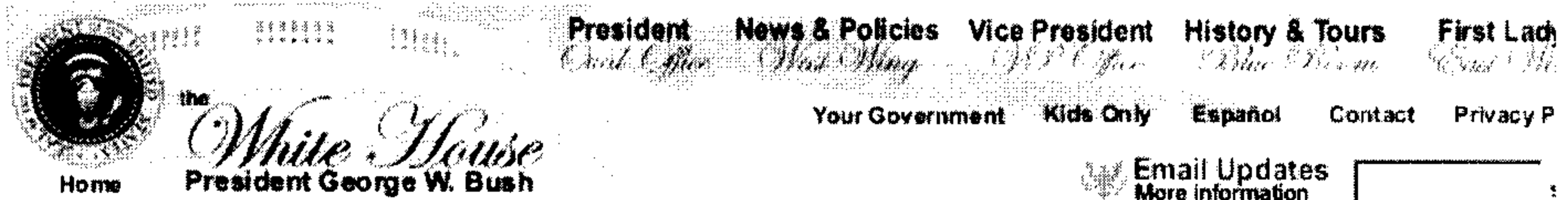
# Zionist Organization of America

May 7, 2003

To: The Media, Jewish Leaders, and Friends of ZOA

Re: White House Press Briefing, May 6, 2003

At yesterday's White House Press Briefing by Ari Fleischer, World Net Daily White House Correspondent Les Kinsolving asked Mr. Fleischer questions based on a telegram that the ZOA sent to President George Bush. ZOA and Mort Klein were mentioned by name in the exchange between Ari Fleischer and Correspondent Kinsolving. The questions and answers have been carried by various press services. The following is the transcript from the official White House website. It is troubling that President Bush's Spokesman avoided answering the question and ignored the deeply troubling statements already made by the new PA Prime Minister Abu Mazen.



Press Briefing by Ari Fleischer  
The White House  
May 6, 2003  
11:50 A.M. EDT

[...]

Q: Ari, President Morton Klein of the Zionist Organization of America has sent a message to the President noting that in the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister's first speech, he said to Yasser Arafat -- this is a quote -- "this government, Mr. President, is your government." And he also demanded that Israel release all of its imprisoned Palestinians. And my question, this is part one: Does this, in any way, surprise President Bush knowing that Abu was Arafat's top deputy for nearly 40 years, having written a book denying the holocaust?

MR. FLEISCHER: Lester, there are a lot of important changes underway in the leadership of the Palestinian Authority. There are a number of reformers, and the President counts Abu Mazen as one of them. And there are some interesting issues underway involving the different people in the Palestinian Authority. This is healthy, this is good that people are looking to lead the Palestinian Authority in a different direction than Yasser Arafat did. And this will be an ongoing process, and I think you'll continue to hear different things and different statements made by different Palestinians. We will continue to find the reformers and work with them.

Q: President Bush has repeatedly said that the Palestinian Authority must actively combat terrorist groups. And my question is, can you cite any evidence at all that this Palestinian

Authority Prime Minister has taken any such action at all against Hamas, which has rejected President Bush's road map?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, it is important for the Palestinian Authority to crack down on terrorists.

Q: Has he done it?

MR. FLEISCHER: It will be very difficult to make certain that a security environment is created so that Israel knows it can live in peace and security, side by side.

Q: But has he done it?

MR. FLEISCHER: I would refer you to the fact that he has already made one appointment on the security front, on his minister who will be in charge of security. That is a helpful appointment. And this will be an important test of the new Palestinian leadership.