



**Dr. Rostom Al-Zoubi
Syrian Arab Republic
2215 Wyoming Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20008**

June 14, 2000

Dear Dr. Al-Zoubi,

I join with the millions of citizens of Syria and those of us whose roots and heritage come from Syria in deep sadness at the passing of President Hafez Al-Assad. His loyalty and devout pursuit of the best interests of his country is almost unequalled in the middle east. The stability in Syria during his tenure as President is loud testimony to his leadership in behalf of this noble country.

I called several times to speak to you personally but was not surprised that the office was not available but was in mourning. I received word that the State Department had me on the list as part of the delegation being sent with our Secretary of State to represent America at the funeral of President Assad but when the list was sent to the White House my name was stricken. I feel that it would have been a positive message to Syria had I been in the delegation having been the first one of Arabic heritage to have been elected as Governor and especially that my father came from the small village in Syria of Amar El-Hosn.

I still have a strong desire to send my personal message to Syria and would appreciate it if you would send to me the address and to whom it should be sent. If it would be proper I would like to mail it to Bashar Al-Assad but if it is not correct please let me know the right place and person.

I send to you my heartfelt sympathies and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Atiyeh", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Victor Atiyeh



Dr. Rostom Al-Zoubi
Syrian Arab Republic
2215 Wyoming Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

June 14, 2000

Dear Dr. Al-Zoubi,

I join with the millions of citizens of Syria and those of us whose roots and heritage come from Syria in deep sadness at the passing of President Hafez Al-Assad. His loyalty and devout pursuit of the best interests of his country is almost unequaled in the middle east. The stability in Syria during his tenure as President is loud testimony to his leadership in behalf of this noble country.

I called several times to speak to you personally but was not surprised that the office was not available but was in mourning. I received word that the State Department had me on the list as part of the delegation being sent with our Secretary of State to represent America at the funeral of President Assad but when the list was sent to the White House my name was stricken. I feel that it would have been a positive message to Syria had I been in the delegation having been the first one of Arabic heritage to have been elected as Governor and especially that my father came from the small village in Syria of Amar El-Hosn.

I still have a strong desire to send my personal message to Syria and would appreciate it if you would send to me the address and to whom it should be sent. If it would be proper I would like to mail it to Bashar Al-Assad but if it is not correct please let me know the right place and person.

I send to you my heartfelt sympathies and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Victor Atiyeh", written over a horizontal line.

Victor Atiyeh

-----244-----
6/15/00 7:19A
-----244-----
6/14/00 3:20P
To: GOVERNOR ATIYEH
From: DEEB*
Of: A. T. F. L.
#: 202-223-9333*
Re: THE SERIAN SARJEH DAFARE IS IN
SERIA AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL
BE BACK. IT COULD BE 5-10 DAYS
DEPENNDING ON SITUATION. IF YOU WANT
TO SPEAK TO JAMIL SAKR - HE IS THE
COUNSELOR 202-232-6313*
-----244-----

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANT & TRADE

July 18, 2000

Dr. Rostom Al-Zoubi
Syrian Arab Republic
2215 Wyoming Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Dr. Al-Zoubi,

It is my understanding that I can direct a letter to President Bashar Al-Assad through the Embassy. Enclosed in the same envelope is such a letter which I would very much appreciate being forwarded to Syria. I have left it unsealed for your review and the envelope awaits the address.

I thank you in advance and send you my very best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Victor Atiyeh', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Victor Atiyeh



**President Bashar Al-Assad
President's Residence
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic**

July 18, 2000

Dear President Al-Assad,

As sad as it was to write a note of sympathy to your Embassy in Washington, D.C. upon the death of your father, it is now with great joy that I address you as "President". You will note by the enclosed copy of the letter sent June 14th that I had the great pleasure and special honor to have visited with your father several times. Each of those meetings left me with comfortable feelings that the country of my roots was in good and wise hands.

You now have a legacy placed in your hands. I have no doubt that you will live up to that legacy and build upon it according to your own personality and belief. Among the many attributes that your father had was a great understanding of the history and traditions of Syria. It was from that strong and unshakeable knowledge that he conducted the office of President and I am sure that he surely must have passed that on to you.

I send you my warmest best wishes for the task that lays before you. I also offer to you myself to assist you at any time to help and support you in the responsibilities of your office. I am proud to say that just days before your Presidency became official I "voted" for you in an unofficial election to show support for you among those of us of Syrian heritage in America. I am proud to say that I was the first one to cast a vote.

May God give you wisdom and strength now and in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Atiyeh", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Victor Atiyeh