

**The original documents are located in Box 60, folder “10/8/76 HR10793 Relief of Afat Yassine and her Children Najla Walid Mona and Maher” of the White House Records Office: Legislation Case Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*S 10/8/76  
oklahoma*

**APPROVED**  
**OCT 8 1976**

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

Last Day: October 9

October 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON *Jim Cannon*

SUBJECT:

H.R. 10793 - Relief of Afat Yassine and her children, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine

*Posted  
10/9/76*

*Archives  
10/12/76*

Attached for your consideration is H.R. 10793, sponsored by Representative Seiberling.

The enrolled bill would restore eligibility for preferential immigrant status to the widow and children of an alien eligible for an immigrant visa as the brother of a United States citizen.

Additional information is provided in OMB's enrolled bill report at Tab A.

OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Kilberg) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign H.R. 10793 at Tab B.





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OCT 1 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 10793 - Relief of Afat Yassine and her children, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine  
Sponsor - Rep. Seiberling (D) Ohio

Last Day for Action

October 9, 1976 - Saturday

Purpose

To restore eligibility for preferential immigrant status to the widow and children of an alien eligible for an immigrant visa as the brother of a United States citizen.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval
Immigration and Naturalization Service	Approval
Department of State	No objection

Discussion

The beneficiaries, a mother and her four children, ages 41, 22, 21, 16, and 12, respectively, are natives and citizens of Lebanon. Mrs. Yassine's husband, who was killed in Lebanon in October 1975, was the beneficiary of a fifth preference visa petition filed in his behalf by his brother, Dr. Zouhair Yassine, a naturalized U.S. citizen residing in Akron, Ohio. However, Mr. Yassine was killed before he and his family could apply for immigrant visas.

Mrs. Yassine has no skills and is unemployed. Najla and Walid Yassine were college students in Beirut; however, their education has, presumably, been interrupted by the civil war there. Mona and Maher Yassine are attending



high school in Lebanon. Dr. Yassine, who is unmarried and practicing medicine in Ohio, has provided the sole financial support for the family since his brother's death.

H.R. 10793 would restore eligibility to Mrs. Yassine and her family for an immigrant visa based upon the late Mr. Yassine being a brother of Dr. Zouhair Yassine. The bill would also declare that Najla and Walid Yassine are eligible for immigrant visas as the dependent children of Mrs. Yassine, because their ages, 22 and 21, respectively, would ordinarily bar such derivative eligibility.

*James M. Frey*  
Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D.C.

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

27 SEP 1976

AND REFER TO THIS FILE NO.

A21 103 817  
A21 103 820  
A18 741 042  
A21 103 816  
A21 103 818

TO : OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

SUBJECT: Enrolled Private Bill No. H.R. 10793 ; Office of Management  
and Budget request dated September 24, 1976.

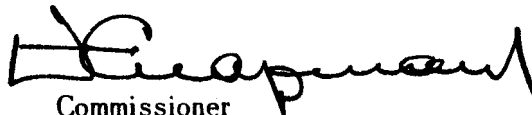
Beneficiary or Beneficiaries Afaf Yassine and her children, Najla  
Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine.

Pursuant to your request for the views of the Department of Justice on  
the subject bill, a review has been made of the facsimile of the bill, the re-  
lating Congressional Committee report or reports, and all pertinent information  
in the files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service

On the basis of this review the Immigration and Naturalization Service,  
on behalf of the Department of Justice:

- Recommends approval of the bill
- Interposes no objection to approval of the bill

Sincerely,

  
Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

SEP 28 1976

Dear Mr. Lynn:

Reference is made to Mr. Frey's communication of September 24, 1976, transmitting for comment enrolled bills, H.R. 10434, "For the relief of Doctor Carlos Montenegro Gorbitz, his wife, Maria Elena Olguin de Gorbitz, and their son, Carlos Gorbitz Olguin", H.R. 10793, "For the relief of Afaf Kanafani Yassine, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine and Maher Yassine", and H.R. 11890, "For the relief of Bernard Julian Phillips".

This Department has no objection to the enactment of these bills.

Sincerely yours,

Kempton B. Jenkins  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations

The Honorable  
James T. Lynn,  
Director,  
Office of Management  
and Budget.

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: **O**ctpber 2

Time: 430pm

FOR ACTION: **RSC/S**  
Max Friedersdorf *mf* cc (for information):  
Bobbie Kilberg *bk*  
Dick Parsons *dp*

Jack Marsh  
Jim Connor  
Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: October 4

Time: 1100am

SUBJECT:

H.R. 10793-relief of Afat Yassine et al

ACTION REQUESTED:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action         | <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief     | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks            |

REMARKS:

please return to judy johnston,ground floor west wing

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.  
For the President

Date: October 2

Time: 430pm

FOR ACTION: NSC/S  
Max Friedersdorf  
Bobbie Kilberg  
Dick Parsons

cc (for information): Jack Marsh  
Jim Connor  
Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: October 4

Time: 1100am

SUBJECT:

H.R. 10793-relief of Afat Yassine et al

ACTION REQUESTED:

\_\_\_ For Necessary Action

\_\_\_ For Your Recommendations

\_\_\_ Prepare Agenda and Brief

\_\_\_ Draft Reply

x

\_\_\_ For Your Comments

\_\_\_ Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

please return to judy johnston, ground floor west wing

10/4

No objection.

BRott

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James M. Cannon  
For the President



Date: October 2

Time: 430pm

FOR ACTION:

NSC/S

Max Friedersdorf

Bobbie Kilberg

Dick Parsons

cc (for information):

Jack Marsh

Jim Connor

Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: October 4

Time: 1100am

SUBJECT:

H.R. 10793-relief of Afat Yassine et al

ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

x

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

please return to judy johnston, ground floor west wing

*Recommend Approval.*

*[Signature]*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James M. Cannon  
For the President

Date: Oct 2

Time: 430pm

FOR ACTION: NSC/S  
Max Friedersdorf  
Bobbie Kilberg  
Dick Parsonscc (for information): Jack Marsh  
Jim Connor  
Ed Schmults

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: October 4

Time: 1100am

SUBJECT:

H.R. 10793-relief of Afat Yassine et al

## ACTION REQUESTED:

 For Necessary Action For Your Recommendations Prepare Agenda and Brief Draft Reply

x

 For Your Comments Draft Remarks

## REMARKS:

*Approved. RFP*  
please return to judy johnston, ground floor west wingPLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James M. Cannon  
For the President

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

October 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES M. CANNON  
FROM: Jeanne W. Davis *WJD*  
SUBJECT: *for* H. R. 10793

The NSC Staff concurs in the proposed enrolled bill H. R. 10793 - Relief of Afat Yassine and her children, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine.

MRS. AFAF KANAFANI YASSINE, NAJLA YASSINE,  
WALID YASSINE, MONA YASSINE, AND MAHER YAS-  
SINE

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MARCH 17, 1976.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and  
ordered to be printed

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Mr. EILBERG, from the Committee on the Judiciary,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 10793]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 10793), for the relief of Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to establish fifth preference priority registration dates under the foreign state limitation for Lebanon in the cases of Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine as of June 6, 1974. The Committee discussed the amendment suggested in the report of the Department of State, and is of the opinion that it is unnecessary since the language of the bill establishes fifth preference status for each of the named beneficiaries of the bill, and does not restore their original derivative status.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The beneficiaries of this bill are a 40-year-old widow and her sons and daughters, ages 21, 20, 15, and 11, all natives and citizens of Lebanon. They were all derivative beneficiaries of a fifth preference petition filed by the United States citizen brother of their late husband and father. The family was preparing to immigrate to the United States when the principal beneficiary of the petition was killed by sniper fire while in his home in Lebanon. His brother, a citizen of the United States, has assumed full financial responsibility for the beneficiaries of this bill.

Certain pertinent facts in this case are contained in a letter dated January 26, 1976 from the Commissioner of Immigration and Natural-

ization to the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. That letter and accompanying memorandum read as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER,  
*Washington, D.C., January 26, 1976.*

HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (H.R. 10793) for the relief of Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiaries.

The bill would provide the beneficiaries a priority date of June 6, 1974 under the fifth preference classification for the issuance of immigrant visas to natives of Lebanon.

Absent enactment of the bill, the beneficiaries, natives of Lebanon, would be chargeable to the nonpreference portion of the numerical limitation for immigrants from countries in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Sincerely,

L. F. CHAPMAN, JR.,  
*Commissioner.*

Enclosure.

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND  
NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE H.R. 10793

Information concerning this case was obtained from Mr. Zouhair Yassine, the interested party, who is the brother-in-law of Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, one of the beneficiaries of the bill.

Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, a native and citizen of Lebanon, was born on July 1, 1935. She is widowed and resides in Lebanon with her children. Her parents are deceased. She has three adult brothers and one adult sister residing in Lebanon. Mrs. Yassine, who attended grade and high school in Lebanon, has no skills and is not employed. Her husband, Farouk Yassine, was the beneficiary of a fifth preference visa petition filed in his behalf by his brother, Zouhair, which was approved on July 23, 1974. Farouk Yassine was killed in Lebanon in October 1975 before he and his family could apply for immigrant visas. The children, Najla, Walid, Mona, and Maher were born in Beirut on March 8, 1954, April 10, 1955, June 26, 1960, and June 23, 1964, respectively. Najla Yassine attended grade and middle school in Lebanon and completed high school in Ohio. She completed one year of college in Ohio and is presently attending college in Beirut. Walid Yassine completed grade and high school in Lebanon, one year of college in Ohio, and was taking a premedical course at American University in Beirut prior to the closing of that institute. Mona and Maher Yassine are attending high school in Lebanon. Definite information about the assets of the Yassine family is not available since the estate is still in litigation.

H.R. 921

The interested party, Zouhair Yassine, a native of Lebanon and a naturalized citizen of the United States, was born on May 8, 1928. He is married and resides in Akron, Ohio with his wife and daughter. He received a medical degree in 1951 in Lebanon and is self-employed as an orthopedic surgeon in Akron earning \$100,000 annually. His assets consist of a \$50,000 equity in a home, savings accounts and mutual funds amounting to \$50,000, and personal property valued at \$65,000. He has no other relatives.

A report from the Department of State dated February 11, 1976 reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, D.C., February 11, 1976.*

HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In reference to your request for a report concerning the cases of Mrs. Afaf Yassine, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine and Maher Yassine, beneficiaries of H.R. 10793, 94th Congress, there is enclosed a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiaries. This memorandum has been submitted by the American Embassy at Beirut in whose consular jurisdiction the beneficiaries reside.

The bill would grant the beneficiaries a priority date as of June 6, 1974 and entitle them to fifth preference foreign state limitation for Lebanon.

In view of the fact that Najla Yassine is over the age of 21 years and Walid will soon be 21 years of age, the Committee may wish to amend the bill to permit them to accompany their mother under the provisions of section 203(a)(9).

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. McCLOSKEY,  
*Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.*

Enclosure.

SUBMITTED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT BEIRUT, LEBANON

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION CONCERNING H.R. 10793, FOR THE RELIEF  
OF MRS. AFAF KANAFANI YASSINE, NAJLA YASSINE, WALID YASSINE, MONA  
YASSINE, AND MAHER YASSINE

Mrs. Afaf Yassine, nee Kanafani was born on July 1, 1935 at Beirut, Lebanon. She is a widow and presently residing at Beirut with her four children. Mrs. Yassine has two daughters, Najla Yassine, born March 10, 1954 and Mona Yassine, born June 20, 1960 and two sons, Walid Yassine, born April 8, 1955, and Maher Yassine, born June 23, 1964. The children are all single and were born in Lebanon.

Najla Yassine is presently a student. She attended high school in Akron, Ohio from 1968 until 1971 and subsequently returned to Lebanon for further studies. From September 1973 to January 1974 she attended the University of Akron, Ohio and most recently has been enrolled at the Beirut University College in Beirut, Lebanon. Mona Yassine is a high school student in Beirut. Walid Yassine attended the American University of Beirut from 1972 until 1974 and

H.R. 921

since 1974 has been employed by Middle East Airlines as a pilot. Maher Yassine is a grade school student in Beirut.

Mrs. Yassine's late husband, Mr. Farouk Yassine, died in Beirut in October 1975. At the time of his death Mr. Yassine was the beneficiary of a fifth preference petition filed by his United States citizen brother. However, because of his death Mr. Yassine's wife and children were automatically deprived of their derivative status as fifth preference immigrants.

The beneficiaries are chargeable to the foreign state limitation for Lebanon.

The Embassy's investigation has revealed no derogatory information concerning the beneficiaries.

MARCH 5, 1976.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN F. SEIBERLING IN SUPPORT OF  
H.R. 10793, A BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF MRS. AFAF YASSINE, NAJLA  
YASSINE, WALID YASSINE, MONA YASSINE, AND MAHER YASSINE

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on behalf of H.R. 10793, a bill to permit Mrs. Afaf Yassine and her four children to immigrate to the United States.

Mrs. Yassine, her husband, and four children were previously eligible to immigrate to this country after a fifth preference visa petition was filed on their behalf by Dr. Zouhair Yassine, a U.S. citizen and resident of Akron, Ohio. Before they obtained their immigrant visas, Mrs. Yassine's husband, Farouk, (the brother of Dr. Yassine), was tragically shot and killed by a sniper in Beirut, Lebanon, while sitting in the kitchen of his home. Upon his death, Mrs. Yassine and her four children lost their fifth preference eligibility to immigrate to the U.S.

Mrs. Yassine and her family have not abandoned their strong desire to come and live in this country and to join her late husband's family. Dr. Yassine has advised me that he is the sole moral and financial supporter of his late brother's family.

Since there is no administrative process through which the Yassines could become eligible for immigrant visas, I introduced legislation to restore their eligibility and priority date. I am pleased that the Judiciary Committee has recommended the enactment of H.R. 10793. I believe this legislation merits the approval of the House of Representatives.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

This legislation does not provide new budget authority and no estimate or comparison has been received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

OVERSIGHT STATEMENT

The Committee exercises general oversight jurisdiction with respect to all immigration and nationality matters but no specific oversight is contemplated in this instance.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the Committee is of the opinion that H.R. 10793 should be enacted and accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

# Calendar No. 1052

94TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE }

REPORT  
No. 94-1118

## AFAF YASSINE AND HER CHILDREN, NAJLA YASSINE, WALID YASSINE, MONA YASSINE, AND MAHER YASSINE

\_\_\_\_\_  
AUGUST 4, 1976.—Ordered to be printed  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on the Judiciary,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 10793]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 10793), for the relief of Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

#### AMENDMENTS

1. Strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That, for the purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act, notwithstanding the death of Farouk Yassine on October 27, 1975, in Beirut, Lebanon, the beneficiary of a petition filed on behalf of himself and his family by his brother, Zouhair C. Yassine, a citizen of the United States, and approved on June 6, 1974, Afaf Yassine, the spouse of Farouk Yassine, and their children, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine shall if otherwise eligible be entitled to fifth preference status under section 203(a) (9) of such Act as of June 6, 1974.

Sec. 2. For the purposes of this bill, Najla Yassine and Walid Yassine shall be considered under twenty-one years of age.

2. Amend the title of the bill to read:

A bill for the relief of Afaf Yassine and her children, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill, as amended, is to restore fifth preference status in behalf of Afaf Yassine and her children, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine. The purpose of the amendments is to clarify the language of the bill and to preserve the eligibility of Najla and Walid Yassine for fifth preference status since they will be over twenty-one years of age when they apply for immigrant visas.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiaries of the bill are natives and citizens of Lebanon, a mother and her four children ages 41, 22, 21, 16, and 12, respectively. Mrs. Yassine is a widow; her husband, who was killed in Lebanon, was the beneficiary of a fifth preference visa petition filed on his behalf by his brother, a U.S. citizen. Mr. Yassine was killed before he and his family could apply for immigrant visas.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated January 26, 1976 to the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization with reference to the bill reads as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER,  
Washington, D.C., January 26, 1976.

HON. PETER W. RODINO, JR.,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (H.R. 10793) for the relief of Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiaries.

The bill would provide the beneficiaries a priority date of June 6, 1974 under the fifth preference classification for the issuance of immigrant visas to natives of Lebanon.

Absent enactment of the bill, the beneficiaries, natives of Lebanon, would be chargeable to the nonpreference portion of the numerical limitation for immigrants from countries in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Sincerely,

L. F. CHAPMAN, JR.,  
Commissioner.

Enclosure.

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND  
NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE H.R. 10793

Information concerning this case was obtained from Mr. Zouhair Yassine, the interested party, who is the brother-in-

law of Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, one of the beneficiaries of the bill.

Mrs. Afaf Kanafani Yassine, a native and citizen of Lebanon was born on July 1, 1935. She is widowed and resides in Lebanon with her children. Her parents are deceased. She has three adult brothers and one adult sister residing in Lebanon. Mrs. Yassine, who attended grade and high school in Lebanon, has no skills and is not employed. Her husband, Farouk Yassine, was the beneficiary of a fifth preference visa petition filed in his behalf by his brother, Zouhair, which was approved on July 23, 1974. Farouk Yassine was killed in Lebanon in October 1975 before he and his family could apply for immigrant visas. The children, Najla, Walid, Mona, and Maher were born in Beirut on March 8, 1954, April 10, 1955, June 26, 1960, and June 23, 1964, respectively. Najla Yassine attended grade and middle school in Lebanon and completed high school in Ohio. She completed one year of college in Ohio and is presently attending college in Beirut. Walid Yassine completed grade and high school in Lebanon, one year of college in Ohio, and was taking a premedical course at American University in Beirut prior to the closing of that institute. Mona and Maher Yassine are attending high school in Lebanon. Definite information about the assets of the Yassine family is not available since the estate is still in litigation.

The interested party, Zouhair Yassine, a native of Lebanon and a naturalized citizen of the United States, was born on May 8, 1928. He is married and resides in Akron, Ohio with his wife and daughter. He received a medical degree in 1951 in Lebanon and is self-employed as an orthopedic surgeon in Akron earning \$100,000 annually. His assets consist of a \$50,000 equity in a home, savings accounts and mutual funds amounting to \$50,000, and personal property valued at \$65,000. He has no other relatives.

A report from the Department of State dated February 11, 1976 reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, D.C., February 11, 1976.

HON. PETER W. RODINO,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In reference to your request for a report concerning the cases of Mrs. Afaf Yassine, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine and Maher Yassine, beneficiaries of H.R. 10793, 94th Congress, there is enclosed a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiaries. This memorandum has been submitted by the American Embassy at Beirut in whose consular jurisdiction the beneficiaries reside.

The bill would grant the beneficiaries a priority date as of June 6, 1974 and entitle them to fifth preference foreign state limitation for Lebanon.



In view of the fact that Najla Yassine is over the age of 21 years and Walid will soon be 21 years of age, the Committee may wish to amend the bill to permit them to accompany their mother under the provisions of section 203(a)(9).

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. McCLOSKEY,  
*Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations.*

Enclosure.

SUBMITTED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT BEIRUT, LEBANON

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION CONCERNING H.R. 10793, FOR THE RELIEF OF MRS. AFAF KANAFANI YASSINE, NAJLA YASSINE, WALID YASSINE, MONA YASSINE, AND MAHER YASSINE

Mrs. Afaf Yassine, nee Kanafani was born on July 1, 1935 at Beirut, Lebanon. She is a widow and presently residing at Beirut with her four children. Mrs. Yassine has two daughters, Najla Yassine, born March 10, 1954 and Mona Yassine, born June 20, 1960 and two sons, Walid Yassine, born April 8, 1955, and Maher Yassine, born June 23, 1964. The children are all single and were born in Lebanon.

Najla Yassine is presently a student. She attended high school in Akron, Ohio from 1968 until 1971 and subsequently returned to Lebanon for further studies. From September 1973 to January 1974 she attended the University of Akron, Ohio and most recently has been enrolled at the Beirut University College in Beirut, Lebanon. Mona Yassine is a high school student in Beirut. Walid Yassine attended the American University of Beirut from 1972 until 1974 and since 1974 has been employed by Middle East Airlines as a pilot. Maher Yassine is a grade school student in Beirut.

Mrs. Yassine's late husband, Mr. Farouk Yassine, died in Beirut in October 1975. At the time of his death Mr. Yassine was the beneficiary of a fifth preference petition filed by his United States citizen brother. However, because of his death Mr. Yassine's wife and children were automatically deprived of their derivative status as fifth preference immigrants.

The beneficiaries are chargeable to the foreign state limitation for Lebanon.

The Embassy's investigation has revealed no derogatory information concerning the beneficiaries.

Congressman John F. Seiberling submitted the following statement in support of his legislation:

MARCH 5, 1976.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN F. SEIBERLING IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 10793, A BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF MRS. AFAF YASSINE, NAJLA YASSINE, WALID YASSINE, MONA YASSINE, AND MAHER YASSINE

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on behalf of H.R. 10793, a bill to permit Mrs. Afaf Yassine and her four children to immigrate to the United States.

Mrs. Yassine, her husband, and four children were previously eligible to immigrate to this country after a fifth preference visa petition was filed on their behalf by Dr. Zouhair Yassine, a U.S. citizen and resident of Akron, Ohio. Before they obtained their immigrant visas, Mrs. Yassine's husband, Farouk, (the brother of Dr. Yassine), was tragically shot and killed by a sniper in Beirut, Lebanon, while sitting in the kitchen of his home. Upon his death, Mrs. Yassine and her four children lost their fifth preference eligibility to immigrate to the U.S.

Mrs. Yassine and her family have not abandoned their strong desire to come and live in this country and to join her late husband's family. Dr. Yassine has advised me that he is the sole moral and financial supporter of his late brother's family.

Since there is no administrative process through which the Yassines could become eligible for immigrant visas, I introduced legislation to restore their eligibility and priority date. I am pleased that the Judiciary Committee has recommended the enactment of H.R. 10793. I believe this legislation merits the approval of the House of Representatives.

Senator John Glenn has introduced a similar bill, S. 3320, for the relief of the same beneficiaries. The following information has been received in support of that bill:

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS, INC.,  
*Akron, Ohio, June 16, 1976.*

Hon. Senator JAMES O. EASTLAND,  
*Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration, U.S. Senate, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR EASTLAND: The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the urgency of the problem concerning the private bill the Honorable Senator John Glenn introduced (which has been submitted to your Committee for approval) in reference to the family of my late brother, Farouk Yassine.

Let me briefly summarize the problem.

A few years ago, I petitioned the Immigration Service to allow my brother and his family to immigrate from Lebanon to the United States.

The petition was allowed and forwarded to the American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

Before the formalities were completed he was killed by a sniper in his home, in Beirut, in October 1975, during the civil strife.

As a result of the death of my "direct blood" relative the originally approved petition lost its validity.

The Congressman of my district, Honorable John Seiberling, was kind enough to introduce in the House, a private bill to authorize granting of my late brother's family the right to immigrate to the United States, as I became the sole moral and financial support of this family.

The Bill was passed by the House. Mr. Seiberling asked Senator Glenn for his support. Senator Glenn introduced a private bill in the Senate for the same purpose.

This Bill is presently in your Subcommittee waiting approval.

The situation in Lebanon, as you well know, is worsening by the day. My brother's family has lost the house in which they were living. They have moved into another apartment, which again was shelled on several occasions. They are living a life of nightmares, sleeping in the basement every night, hardly finding food, water, and clothing.

All the investigation has been completed by the Immigration Office and by the American Embassy in Beirut, and all that is needed now is the approval of your Subcommittee before the Bill gets formal approval by the Senate.

In view of the grave urgency of the situation in Lebanon, I would implore you to give this matter your immediate attention to help the tragic life of this family.

I would deeply appreciate your efforts and I would like to assure you of my sincere gratitude.

Very truly yours,

ZOUHAIR YASSINE, M.D.

Inasmuch as the instant bill is being reported favorably, the bill S. 3320 will be indefinitely postponed.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill, H.R. 10793, as amended, should be enacted.

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# Ninety-fourth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six*

## An Act

For the relief of Afaf Yassine and her children, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act, notwithstanding the death of Farouk Yassine on October 27, 1975, in Beirut, Lebanon, the beneficiary of a petition filed on behalf of himself and his family by his brother, Zouhair C. Yassine, a citizen of the United States, and approved on June 6, 1974, Afaf Yassine, the spouse of Farouk Yassine, and their children, Najla Yassine, Walid Yassine, Mona Yassine, and Maher Yassine shall if otherwise eligible be entitled to fifth preference status under section 203(a)(9) of such Act as of June 6, 1974.*

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act, Najla Yassine and Walid Yassine shall be considered under twenty-one years of age.

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.*