

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 2, 2006

Dear Prince Dejala:

Thank you for your letter inviting President Bush to attend the Knights of Malta Catholic Copts' Gala Fundraiser in Staten Island, New York on October 25, 2006.

Unfortunately, we have had to make some difficult decisions regarding the President's schedule. It is with sincere regret that we must decline your invitation. I want to assure you, however, that your letter received every consideration. Thank you for your understanding.

The President sincerely appreciates your thoughtfulness in writing and sends his best wishes.

Sincerely,



Melissa S. Bennett
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Appointments and Scheduling

Prince Costantino Dejala, II
Prime Minister
Knights of Malta Catholic Copts
Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem
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