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ID# 304223

C0086

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 14, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MIKE MCMANUS

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO INTERVENE IN THE HOSTAGE CRISIS INVOLVING REVEREND BENJAMIN WEIR AND FIVE OTHER AMERICANS IN LEBANON

*	ACTION	DISPOSITION
	ACT DATE T CODE YY/MM/DD R	YPE C COMPLETED RESP D YY/MM/DD
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COMMENTS:		
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I-INFO COPY/MO ACT NEC *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *	*	OUTCOING *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *	*	*
*X-INTERIM REPLY * ***********************************	* *******	* *****
REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDAT (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHFET ATTACHED TO T LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COME MANAGEMENT.	HE ORIGINAL INCO	MING

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

S/S # 8517733

The Honorable

DATE August 7, 1985

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane National Security Council The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Mike McManus

DATE: May 9, 1985 vene in the hostage crisis involving Reverend Benjamin Weir and five other Americans in Lebanon

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: June 14, 1985 NSC # 304223

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

A draft reply is attached

A draft reply will be forwarded

A translation is attached

XXX An information copy of a direct reply is attached

- We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below
- Other

REMARKS:

Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

85 AUG 7 PII: 32 WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

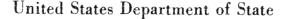
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Washington, D.C. 20520



July 25, 1985

The Honorable Mike McManus State Senator Washington State Senate 422 Senate Office Building Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Senator McManus:

I am replying further to your letter to President Reagan concerning the Reverend Benjamin Weir, who was kidnapped in Beirut in May 1984. I regret the delay in this response.

The Department of State, our Embassies, and other U.S. Government agencies overseas are following every lead to effect Mr. Weir's safe release. Regrettably, we know very little about the self-titled "Islamic Jihad," which has claimed responsibility for kidnapping Mr. Weir and other Americans. This group has demanded the release of terrorists convicted and imprisoned in Kuwait for the 1983 bombings of the American and French Embassies (for which the organization also claimed responsibility), in which 6 persons died and over 80 others were injured.

The Administration is deeply concerned about the Americans still missing in Lebanon, and had hoped to secure their freedom when the hostages from TWA flight 847 were released. Unfortunately, this proved impossible. The Administration is continuing its intensive diplomatic contacts, as we pursue all plausible avenues of inquiry. We also remain in close consultation with the Weir family.

We understand your concern for Mr. Weir's safe return, and share your impatience, but cannot comment more specifically on our ongoing, intensive efforts. Throughout Mr. Weir's captivity, it has been our policy not to discuss the details of our efforts to secure his release and that of the other kidnapped Americans. Such publicity would not be helpful. We believe it only offers continued incentive for the captors to retain their hostages, and ultimately could prove harmful to the efforts to secure their release.

Mr. Weir's kidnapping and the hijacking of TWA flight 847 are tragic examples of the continuing terrorist attacks on Americans. Because of our concern for Americans' safety, the Department has issued several travel advisories recommending against any travel to Lebanon and urging Americans in Lebanon to take advantage of opportunities to leave. We have vigorously condemned such terrorist acts, and called on the world community to take steps to end such lawless behavior. The U.S. Government intends to continue its intensive efforts on Mr. Weir's behalf. President Reagan is deeply concerned for the safety of all the kidnapped Americans, and is kept fully briefed. As he has said, we have not forgotten those who are being held.

Sincerely,

Director, Intergovernmental Affairs Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

JUNE 14, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

- ID: 304223
- MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 9, 1985
- TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN
- FROM: THE HONORABLE MIKE MCMANUS STATE SENATOR WASHINGTON STATE SENATE 422 SENATE OFFICE BUILDING OLYMPIA WA 98504
- SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO INTERVENE IN THE HOSTAGE CRISIS INVOLVING REVEREND BENJAMIN WEIR AND FIVE OTHER AMERICANS IN LEBANON

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

8517733

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1985

Dear Senator McManus:

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank $y \partial^u$ for your recent letter in which you request that every effort be made to win release of Reverend Benjamin Weir and other American hostages who are being held in Lebanon.

I can assure this grave matter is receiving close at tention, and have forwarded your correspondence to the appropriate officials at the U.S. Department of State for their benefit and direct reply.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with the Administration.

Sincerely,

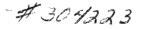
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Ceci Cole McInturff Special Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affaines

The Honorable Mike McManus Senator of the State of Washington State Capitol Olympia, Washington 98504

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8517733





WASHINGTON STATE SENATE

SENATOR MIKE McMANUS 21st District

May 9, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan President of the United States of America The White House Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

On behalf of Reverend Benjamin Weir and the five other Americans who are being held hostage in Lebanon, we request that you intervene in this particular hostage crisis and request the U. S. State Department to give a much higher priority and renewed vigor in the campaign to secure the prompt and safe release of these Americans.

On your recent tour of Europe, I am sure you have gained a new insight as to the feelings of the dissident populations, not only in the countries you visited but also how best to interpret the message that the Shiite Moslem group is trying to communicate to the United States. There must be an alternative method of negotiation that would show a spirit of confidence and reconciliation that would not allow blackmail.

Please give this request as much priority as is possible with your very busy schedule so that we may bring back our fellow countrymen to this "land of the free".

Thank you for your consideration and help.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike McManus MM:it

422 Senate Office Building Olympia, Washington 98504 a 786-7640

COMMITTEES: Small Business Subcommittee, Chairman
Government Operations, Vice Chairman Energy & Utilities, Vice Chairman Education

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ID# 305286

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

07 JUN 1985

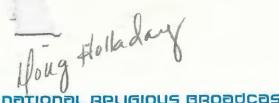
DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 06, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. BEN ARMSTRONG

SUBJECT: URGES INFLUENCE FOR RELEASE OF BEN WEIR BEING HELD HOSTAGE IN LEBANON FOR ONE YEAR

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305286





national religious proadcasters

CN 1926 Morristown, New Jersey 07960 (201) 428-5400 Ben Armstrong, Ph.D., Executive Director

June 4, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D. C. 20500

Mr. President:

I want to write on behalf on behalf of the Rev. Benjamin M. Weir, who on May 8, 1985, has been captive for one year in Lebanon.

As a member of the Presbyterian Church - U. S. A., I am concerned, and I know you are, too, for someone who has suffered a brutal abduction in Lebanon. Ben Weir is a lifelong member of San Francisco Presbytery engaged in overseas ministry for many years following pastoral service in California.

I know, Mr. President, that you are aware of Ben Weir's disappearance. Would it be possible with your considerable influence to accomplish the release of Mr. Weir and the other captives in Lebanon?

Anything you could do, especially at this time, would be deeply appreciated by me and the members of National Religious Broadcasters.

With warm personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Ben Armstrong **Executive** Director

BA:ad

cc: Rev. Charles L. Ringe Dr. James Chesnutt

43rd Annual Convention, February 2 - 5, 1986, Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C.



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to be used as Enclosur	e		Code	= Initials of Signer
comments:				

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

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No. of Additional Correspondents:	Media: I	ndividual Codes: 4.	500	
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8510090 8510101 8510406 **s/s #** <u>8510511</u>

DATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

(CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLASSIFIED

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane National Security Council The White House

REFERENCE:

то:	PRESIDENT REAGAN	FROM:	VARIOUS	WRITERS
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DATE: VARIOUS DATES SUBJECT: BENJAMIN WEIR KIDNAPPED

IN LEBANON

WHITE	HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: VARIOUS DATES	NSC #	VARIOUS:
	THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE		308254 . 308256 300595 308776

ACTION TAKEN:

- _____ A draft reply is attached
- A draft reply will be forwarded
- A translation is attached
- X An information copy of a direct reply is attached
- We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below
- ____ Other

REMARKS:

Nicholas Platt 🖋 Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 17, 1985

Mr. Lawrence H. Richards Missionary in Residence Synod of the Southeast Presbyterian Church (USA) 509 Executive Park Augusta, Georgia 30907

Dear Mr. Richards:

I am replying to your message to President Reagan concerning the status of the Reverend Benjamin Weir, who was kidnapped in Beirut in May 1984.

We are very concerned about the continuing terrorist attacks on Americans in Beirut, of which Mr. Weir's kidnapping is another tragic example. Although an organization calling itself "Islamic Jihad" has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, virtually nothing is known about the group.

The Department of State and our Embassy in Beirut are following every possible avenue to effect Mr. Weir's safe release. We continue to be in contact with a variety of parties in the region and are pursuing all possible avenues of inquiry. We have carefully questioned escaped hostage Jeremy Levin for clues that might be helpful and are following up on all leads. We also remain in close consultation with the Weir family and the leadership of the Presbyterian Church.

Let me assure you we will continue our efforts on Mr. Weir's behalf. As President Reagan said, we have not forgotten those who are being held.

Sincerely yours,

John T. McCarthy Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 3, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 308254

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 28, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. LAWRENCE H. RICHARD MISSIONARY IN RESIDENCE SYNOD OF THE SOUTHEAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

509 EXECUTIVE PARK AUGUSTA GA 30907

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING EFFORTS TO RELEASE BEN WEIR, WHO WAS ABDUCTED IN LEBANON

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

308254

Synod of the Southeast

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

8510090

JAMES A. NISBET, Executive Coordinator

March 28, 1985

The President The White House Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Today is the 325th day of captivity of the Rev. Benjamin M. Weir, one of the several Americans held hostage in Lebanon. Ben is my personal friend and long-time colleague.

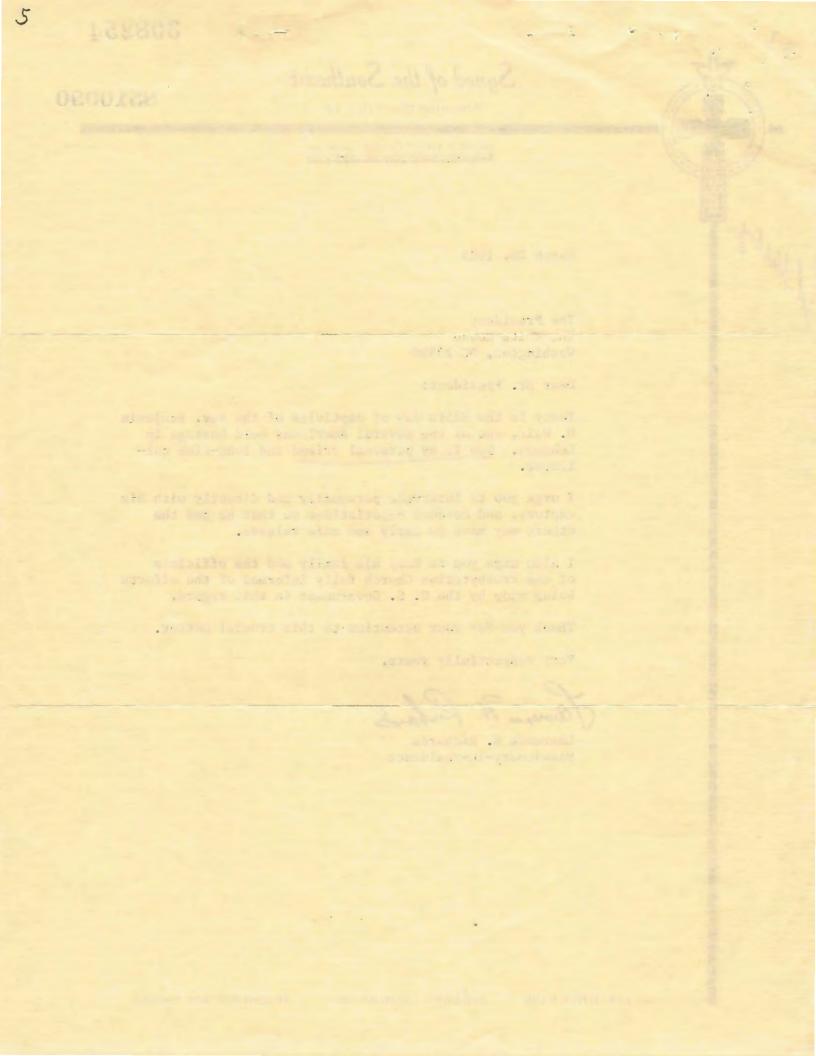
I urge you to intervene personally and directly with his captors, and conduct negotiations so that he and the others may have an early and safe release.

I also urge you to keep his family and the officials of the Presbyterian Church fully informed of the efforts being made by the U. S. Government in this regard.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Very respectfully yours,

Lawrence H. Richards Missionary-in-residence



308256 3 ID #_ CAOSG WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET O . OUTGOING 8510101 H - INTERNAL - INCOMING П Date Correspondence 85 163 Received (YY/MM/DD) 85 163 28 Will Name of Correspondent: 17Mr. /7Mrs./7Miss **(B) MI Mail Report User Codes:** (A) (C) Subject: ACTION DISPOSITION **ROUTE TO:** Tracking Туре Completion Date Date Action of YY/MM/DD (Staff Name) Code YY/MM/DD Response Code Office/Agency 1943 85 85 10 ORIGINATOR CoKell 10 **Referral Note:** 85/0 85 **Referral Note: Referral Note:** Referral Note: **Referral Note: DISPOSITION CODES: ACTION CODES:** A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary A - Answered C - Completed R - Direct Reply w/Copy B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended D - Draft Response S - For Signature **Furnish Fact Sheet** X - Interim Reply F FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: to be used as Enclosure Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing **Comments:**

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

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No. of Additional Correspondents: Media:		es: <u>4.500</u>	
Prime Subject Code: <u>CO 086</u>	Secondary Subject Codes:		
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UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

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DATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane National Security Council The White House

REFERENCE:

- TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN FROM: VARIOUS WRITERS
- DATE: VARIOUS DATES SUBJECT: BENJAMIN WEIR KIDNAPPED

IN LEBANON

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED:VARIOUS DATES	NSC #	VARIOUS
		308254 .
THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY		308256
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE		300595
		308776

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached
- A draft reply will be forwarded
- _____ A translation is attached
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- We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below
- ____ Other

REMARKS:

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/ Nicholas Platt 🖋 Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION) Seme filler Seme filler Washington, D.C. 20520

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Sincerely yours,

John T. McCarthy Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 3, 1985

1-

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

- ID: 308256
- MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 25, 1985
- TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. WILLIAM H. HOPPER JR. ASSOCIATE PASTOR LAFAYETTE - ORINDA UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 49 KNOX DRIVE

- LAFAYETTE CA 94549
- SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING EFFORTS TO RELEASE BEN WEIR, WHO WAS ABDUCTED IN LEBANON

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

308256



8510101 Lafayette-Orinda United Presbyterian Church

March 25, 1985

President Ronald Regan The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In the mid-fifties my wife and I first met Ben and Carol Weir in Beirut during our twenty years residence in the Middle East, and we have remained friends ever since. 'The Weirs had lunch with us here just two days before they left to return to Lebanon a year ago.

We are thoroughly convinced that Ben Weir was not abducted because he is a Presbyterian minister, as I am, but because he happens to be an American - some 322 days ago.

I am fully aware that aiding Ben's release - and that of the other Americans being held captive - is not easy, but surely the American government can do much more than it has to bring freedom to these men. Several ingredients seem to be required:

1. Commitment on the part of the United States Government.

2. Hard work.

3. Understanding and using Middle Eastern bargaining - we call it negotiating.

Of course, there can never be any lasting peace and normality in the Middle East so long as the United States Government persists in its unilateral unblinking support of Israel.

Are you not in a position to establish a higher priority on the release of the abducted Americans?

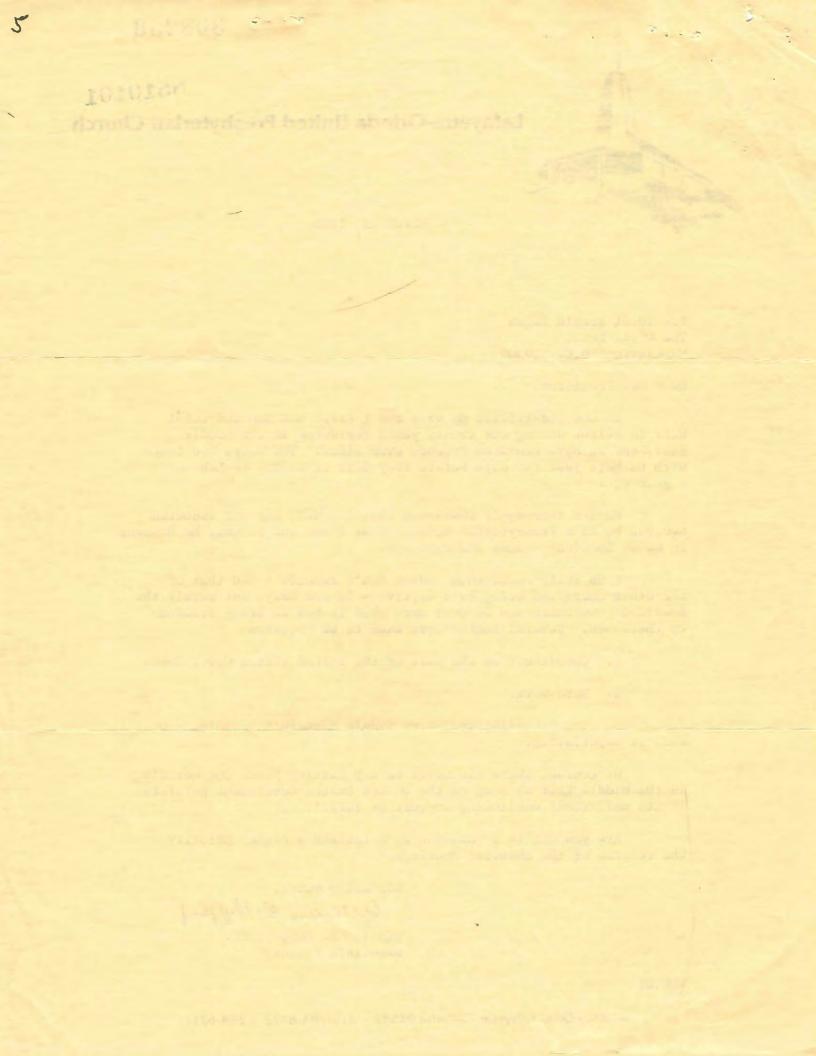
Sincerely yours,

William H. Bygger J

William H. Hopper, Jr. Associate Pastor

WHH:bf

49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, California 94549 · 415/283-8722 · 254-6211



308776 *COO86*

ID #___

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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				8510511
Name of Correspondent: <u>/7Mr./7M</u>	nrs./7Miss	Pobert S.	Hampe	l
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ROUTE TO:	AC	TION	DISP	OSITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date Code YY/MM/DD
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Aus	Referral Note:	85 10 415		<u>A 85104117</u>
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ACTION CODES: A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure	I - Info Copy Only/No Ad R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply		DISPOSITION CODES: A - Answered B - Non-Special Refe FOR OUTGOING CORF Type of Response = Code = Completion Date =	RESPONDENCE: Initials of Signer "A"
Comments:				
Keep this worksheet attached to the ori Send all routing updates to Central Refe				

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION No. of Additional Individual Codes: Media: Correspondents: Prime Secondary Subject Codes: Subject Code:

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY Code Date Comment Form Time: P-С DSP Time: Media:

SIGNATURE CODES:

- **CPn** Presidential Correspondence
 - n 0 Unknown
 - n 1 Ronald Wilson Reagan n 2 Ronald Reagan

 - n 3 Ron
 - n 4 Dutch n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 - n 6 Ronald n 7 Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence n - 0 - Unknown

- n 1 Nancy Reagan
- n 2 Nancy n 3 Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B Box/package
- C Copy D Official document
- G Message H - Handcarried
- L Letter
- M- Mailgram
- O Memo P Photo

- R Report S Sealed T Telegram V Telephone X - Miscellaneous
- Y Study

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)

		8510090
		8510101
_ / _		8510406
s/s	#	8510511

DATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane National Security Council The White House

REFERENCE:

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TO:	PRESIDENT REAGAN	FROM:	VARIOUS WRITERS
•	FINE STITE N L BEAGAN		

DATE: VARIOUS DATES SUBJECT: BENJAMIN WEIR KIDNAPPED

IN LEBANON

WHITE	HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: VARIOUS DATES	NSC	ŧ	VARIOUS:
				308254 .
	THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY			308256
	TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE			300595
				308776

ACTION TAKEN:

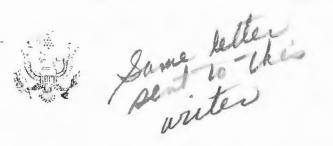
- A draft reply is attached
- A draft reply will be forwarded
- A translation is attached
- X An information copy of a direct reply is attached
- We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below
- Other

REMARKS:

m A. aller for

/ Nicholas Platt 🖋 Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED (CLASSIFICATION)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 17, 1985

Mr. Lawrence H. Richards Missionary in Residence Synod of the Southeast Presbyterian Church (USA) 509 Executive Park Augusta, Georgia 30907

Dear Mr. Richards:

I am replying to your message to President Reagan concerning the status of the Reverend Benjamin Weir, who was kidnapped in Beirut in May 1984.

We are very concerned about the continuing terrorist attacks on Americans in Beirut, of which Mr. Weir's kidnapping is another tragic example. Although an organization calling itself "Islamic Jihad" has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, virtually nothing is known about the group.

The Department of State and our Embassy in Beirut are following every possible avenue to effect Mr. Weir's safe release. We continue to be in contact with a variety of parties in the region and are pursuing all possible avenues of inquiry. We have carefully questioned escaped hostage Jeremy Levin for clues that might be helpful and are following up on all leads. We also remain in close consultation with the Weir family and the leadership of the Presbyterian Church.

Let me assure you we will continue our efforts on Mr. Weir's behalf. As President Reagan said, we have not forgotten those who are being held.

Sincerely yours,

John T. McCarthy Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

8510511

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 5, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 308776

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 25, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

- FROM: MR. ROBERT S. HAMPEL PASTOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 35450 NEWARK BOULEVARD NEWARK CA 94560
- SUBJECT: URGES THAT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF BEN WEIR BE INCREASED

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

8510511

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

35450 Newark Boulevard, Newark, California, 94560 (415) 797-8811 Pastors: Robert S. Hampel, D. Min.; Gary M. Lawson, M. Div.

308776

March 25, 1985

The Honorable Mr. Ronald Reagan President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

GK

With appreciation for the fact that you are held in respect by the people you serve and that you have great influence personally among the nations of the world, I am joining with many others in requesting respectfully that efforts to obtain the release of Benjamin Weir (and the other Americans who are being held hostage in Lebanon) be increased.

Ben is a fellow Presbyterian minister whom I have had the privilege of knowing for over thirty-five years. As I am sure you have heard from others, Ben is a gentle, caring man; and, along with his wife, Carol, he has served the best interests of the people of Lebanon for thirty-two years.

Thank you, Mr. President, for all that you are doing and will do toward securing the release of Ben Weir.

Sincerely. Robert S. Hampel

Robert S. Hampel

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ID #__

309889 *CO 086*

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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I - INCOMING Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 8510411	4					
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ACTION CODES:			DISPOSITION CODES:			
A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response F - Furnish Fact Sheet	I - Info Copy Only/No Ac R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature X - Interim Reply	tion Necessary	A - Answered B - Non-Special Refe	C - Completed rral S - Suspended		
to be used as Enclosure			FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Type of Response = Initials of Signer Code = "A" Completion Date = Date of Outgoing			
Comments:						
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Comments:	iginal incoming lette	er.				

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

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No. of Additional Correspondents:	Media:	Individual	Codes:	4.000	
Prime Subject Code: 20	086 Se	econdary ubject Codes:			

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form	
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DSP		Time:	Media:	

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence n - 0 - Unknown n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan n - 2 - Ronald Reagan n - 3 - Ron n - 4 - Dutch n - 5 - Ron Reagan n - 6 - Ronald n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n 0 Unknown n 1 Nancy Reagan
- n 2 Nancy
- n 3 Mrs. Ronald Reagan
- CBn Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence n 1 Ronald Reagan Nancy Reagan n 2 Ron Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

B - Box/package	
C - Copy	
D - Official document	
G - Message	
H - Handcarried	
L - Letter	
M- Mailgram	
O - Memo	
P - Photo	
R - Report	
S - Sealed	
T - Telegram	
V - Telephone	
X - Miscellaneous	
Y - Study	

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UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

s/s	#	8511368

DATE May 1, 1985

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane National Security Council The White House

REFERENCE:

TO:	President Reagan	FROM:	Thomas H.	Woenrie
DATE:	April 4, 1985	SUBJECT:	Reverend	Benjamin
	Weir			

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: April 15, 1985 NSC # 309889

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

A draft reply is attached

A draft reply will be forwarded

A translation is attached

XX An information copy of a direct reply is attached

We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

____ Other

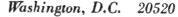
REMARKS:

Nicholas Platt for Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

United States Department of State



April 24, 1985

Mr. Thomas H. Woehrle Friends Academy Locust Valley, New York 11560

Dear Mr. Woehrle:

I am replying to your letter to President Reagan concerning the status of the Reverend Benjamin Weir, who was kidnapped in Beirut in May 1984.

We are very concerned about the continuing terrorist attacks on Americans in Beirut, of which Mr. Weir's kidnapping is another tragic example. Although an organization calling itself "Islamic Jihad" has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, virtually nothing is known about the group.

The Department of State and our Embassy in Beirut are following every possible avenue to effect Mr. Weir's safe release. We continue to be in contact with a variety of parties in the region and are pursuing all possible avenues of inquiry. We have carefully questioned escaped hostage Jeremy Levin for clues that might be helpful and are following up on all leads. We also remain in close consultation with the Weir family and the leadership of the Presbyterian Church.

Let me assure you we will continue our efforts on Mr. Weir's behalf. As President Reagan said, we have not forgotten those who are being held.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Smalley Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs



8511368

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 15, 1985

-

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 309889

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 4, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

- FROM: MR. THOMAS H. WOEHRLE FRIENDS ACADEMY LOCUST VALLEY NY 11560
- SUBJECT: WORKED AS MISSIONARIES WITH REVEREND BENJAMIN WEIR - ABDUCTED IN LEBANON - ASKS FOR SUPPORT OF HIS RELEASE

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

309889

37. Hard

THOMAS H. WOEHRLE FRIENDS ACADEMY LOCUST VALLEY, NEW YORK 11560

april 4, 1985

8511368

President Ronald Reagan The White ifeure Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Rundent:

When my unfo and I served as musiconanes in hyrice Jum 1960-1963 the Rev. Benjamin Wein aver and repervisor. He is a kind, gentle and compassionate person. We unge you to do everything you can to effect his release from his adeclustors in Lebanon.

we would be grateful for any effect you make in this most urgent and important silvation.

T deanh you very much for the careful Consideration we know you will give ver request-

Ances Theam N. Muchil

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

s/s # 8511368

DATE May 1, 1985

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane National Security Council The White House

REFERENCE:

TO:	President Reagan	FROM: Thomas H. Woenrie	
DATE:	April 4, 1985	SUBJECT: Reverend Benjamin	
	Weir		
WHITE	HOUSE REFERRAL DATED:	April 15, 1985 NSC # 309889	

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

A draft reply is attached

A draft reply will be forwarded

- _____ A translation is attached
- XX An information copy of a direct reply is attached
- We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below

____ Other

REMARKS:

Nicholas Platt for Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)



Washington, D.C. 20520

April 24, 1985



Mr. Thomas H. Woehrle Friends Academy Locust Valley, New York 11560

Dear Mr. Woehrle:

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Let me assure you we will continue our efforts on Mr. Weir's behalf. As President Reagan said, we have not forgotten those who are being held.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Smalley Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

8511368

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 15, 1985

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TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 309889

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 4, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. THOMAS H. WOEHRLE FRIENDS ACADEMY LOCUST VALLEY NY 11560

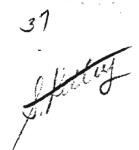
SUBJECT: WORKED AS MISSIONARIES WITH REVEREND BENJAMIN WEIR - ABDUCTED IN LEBANON - ASKS FOR SUPPORT OF HIS RELEASE

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RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

309889



THOMAS H. WOEHRLE FRIENDS ACADEMY LOCUST VALLEY, NEW YORK 11560

april 4, 1985

8511368

President Ronald Reagon The White I fame Washington, D. C. 20500

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Dear Mr. Rundent:

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We would be grateful for any effect you make in this most ugent and important silvation.

+ trank you very much for the careful ansideration we know you will give ver request-

Amients. Anna 1. Muchil



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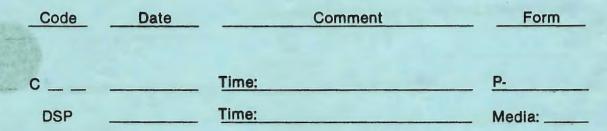
Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION					
No. of Addition Correspondent		Individual Code	es: <u>3300</u>		
Prime Subject Code:	<u>COO86</u>	Secondary Subject Codes:	2003 2003311 2023.03		

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY



SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence n - 0 - Unknown n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan n - 2 - Ronald Reagan

- n 3 Ron n 4 Dutch n 5 Ron Reagan n 6 Ronald n 7 Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

n - 0 - Unknown

n - 1 - Nancy Reagan

n - 2 - Nancy

n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

B - Box/package	
C - Copy	
D - Official document	
G - Message	
H - Handcarried	
L - Letter	
M- Mailgram	
O - Memo	
P - Photo	
R - Report	
S - Sealed	
T - Telegram	
V - Telephone	

X - Miscellaneous Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1985

Dear Earl:

Nancy and I were happy to hear from you, even if the occasion for your letter is not a pleasant one. It's just like you to take the time to write on behalf of the Reverend Benjamin Weir and the other Americans who have been kidnapped in Lebanon. I appreciate your sympathetic interest in this tragic matter.

I am extremely concerned about the terrorist attacks on Americans in Lebanon and the continuing captivity of Ben Weir and the other four Americans who were abducted in Beirut. This is a problem in which I take a personal interest and about which I am kept fully briefed. I can assure you that the lack of success so far does not reflect a lack of effort. The State Department, as well as other agencies and our Embassies overseas, are following every lead to ensure the safe release of Ben Weir and the other Americans. Intensive diplomatic contacts are continuing and we are pursuing all possible avenues of inquiry. Not much has been said publicly about our efforts on behalf of the captive Americans because we believe that their release can best be accomplished through quiet, discreet diplomacy.

Nevertheless, I can certainly appreciate what an ordeal this must be for the families -- with whom we remain in close touch and whose impatience we share. Secretary Shultz, for example, met Mrs. Weir on March 22 to reassure her that the release of her husband and the other Americans was a top priority for the Administration. Let me assure you that we will continue our intensive efforts on behalf of the missing Americans. They have not been forgotten. Nancy joins me in thanking you for your continuing support and in extending to you and Peggie our very best wishes.



Mr. J. Earl Coke 1042 English Oaks Drive Arcadia, California 91006

The President has seen_15/ 5/17/85

3346

MEMORANDUM

Received SS

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

INC MAY 17 MILLER

May 17, 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SIGNED

FROM: ROBERT C. McFARLANE (7)

SUBJECT: Lebanon Hostages

Issue

Responding to Earl Coke about Rev. Benjamin Weir.

Facts

Earl Coke wrote you about the plight of Benjamin Weir, the Presbyterian missionary kidnapped in Lebanon a year ago. Without proposing that you take any specific action, Coke noted that there is great pressure within the Presbyterian community for more action, and that Weir's wife "seems to have reached a breaking point."

Discussion

The national Presbyterian Church has mounted a major letter-writing campaign aimed at an increased USG effort to free the Lebanon hostages, including Rev. Weir. The Church's campaign is driven by Mrs. Weir's belief that the kidnappings occurred only because of U.S. policies in the Middle East and that the U.S. is now not doing enough to free the hostages. Mrs. Weir believes, partly on the basis of letters from her husband in captivity, that it should be possible at least to trade the hostages for men imprisoned in Kuwait for blowing up the American Embassy there. Mrs. Weir, more than any of the other friends and family of the various hostages, has found it hard to accept that we are, in fact, doing everything we can; that you have personally played an active part, including your direct contact with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad; and that the full resources of the U.S. intelligence and diplomatic communities have been turned to this task, albeit in ways that are extremely difficult to discuss in public.

CONFIDENTIAL Declassify on: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

Still, there is little encouraging we can say to Mrs. Weir about locating the hostages, about leverage with the kidnappers, or even about the identity of the perpetrators. For now, it is important simply to try to keep the families from doing things that reinforce the kidnappers' belief that they hold great leverage over the USG. We therefore have kept the families generally briefed on our efforts but have also urged them to avoid publicity. Mrs. Weir, nonetheless, continues to take the view that the U.S. will do more if whipped into it by adverse publicity. After her meeting with Secretary Shultz on March 22, for instance, she immediately staged a press conference to criticize the USG performance. It would therefore be best for you to respond to such inquiries in a general way, leaving it to State to see to the needs of the families -- as they are doing -- on a day-to-day basis.

Attached at Tab A is a draft response to Earl Coke which thanks him warmly for his interest in the matter and assures him that you are doing everything you know how to do to free the hostages.

Recommendation

OK No

That you sign the letter to Earl Coke at Tab A.

Attachments:

Tab A Letter to Earl Coke

Prepared by: Jock Covey

cc: Vice-President

CONFIDENTIAL

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

3346

lel las

May 6, 1985

UNCLASSIFIED (with CONFIDENTIAL attachment)

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM: JOCK COVEY

SUBJECT: Lebanon Hostages

A personal friend of the President has written on behalf of Mrs. Weir, wife of the Presbyterian missionary kidnapped in Lebanon a year ago.

The attached memo recommends a warm but general reply. A separate memo dealing with a similar letter to you goes into greater detail on the status of the case.

Ollie North concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

Approve / Disapprove

Attachments:

Tab I Memo to the President Tab A Letter to Earl Coke Tab B Incoming correspondence

UNCLASSIFIED (with CONFIDENTIAL attachment)

4 4



S/S 8511853 United States Department of State

CR: 32 83

Washington, D.C. 20520 April 24, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Draft Presidential Reply to Mr. J. Earl Coke

Mr. J. Earl Coke, an old friend and former appointee of the President, has written to him at the request of the Presbyterian Church on behalf of the Reverend Benjamin Weir and the other Americans who have been kidnapped in Lebanon (Tab 2). This letter is representative of the large-scale letter writing campaign the Presbyterian Church has recently organized at Mrs. Weir's request to urge greater U.S. efforts to effect the release of Ben Weir and the other captive Americans. Attached at Tab 1 is a proposed draft reply.

Nicholas Platt Executive Secretary

Attachments:

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Tab 1 - Proposed Reply. Tab 2 - Incoming Correspondence.





TAR WATTER HOUSEN HENGINISDAN SON NOAPSEL C. MAANKEVNE

subject: pract Freeidential Reply to Mr. J. Batl Coke

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Tab 2 - Incoming Coursespondence. IOD T - LLODOUVC MADIA .

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UNGLASSIFED

Dear Earl,

Nancy and I were happy to hear from you even if the occasion for your letter is not a pleasant one. It's just like you to take the time to write on behalf of the Reverend Benjamin Weir and the other Americans who have been kidnapped in Lebanon. I appreciate your sympathetic interest in this tragic matter.

I am extremely concerned about the terrorist attacks on Americans in Lebanon and the continuing captivity of Ben Weir and the other four Americans who were abducted in Beirut. This is a problem in which I take a personal interest and about which I am kept fully briefed. I can assure you that the lack of success so far does not reflect a lack of effort. The State Department as well as other agencies and our Embassies overseas are following every lead to ensure the safe release of Ben Weir and the other Americans. Intensive diplomatic contacts are continuing and we are pursuing all possible avenues of inquiry. Not much has been said publicly about our efforts on behalt of the captive Americans because we believe that their release can best be accomplished through quiet, discreet diplomacy.

Mr. J. Earl Coke 1042 English Oaks Drive, Arcadia, California. Nevertheless, I can certainly appreciate what an ordeal this must be for the families with whom we remain in close touch and whose impatience we share. Secretary Shultz, for example, met with Mrs. Weir on March 22 to reassure her that the release of her husband and the other Americans was a top priority for the Administration. Let me assure you that we will continue our intensive efforts on behalf of the missing Americans. They have not been forgotten.

Nancy joins me in thanking you for your continuing support and in extending to you and Peggie our sincere best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

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8511853

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

APRIL 19, 1985

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TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED: DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF RONALD REAGAN

REMARKS: SEE MEMO FROM KATHY OSBORNE

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 310733

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 4, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. J. EARL GOKE 1042 ENGLISH OAKS DRIVE ARCADIA CA 91006

SUBJECT: SEEKS RELEASE OF REVEREND BENJAMIN WEIR WHO HAS BEEN IN CAPTIVITY IN LEBANON OVER 348 DAYS

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

> SALLY KELLEY DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

8511853

TO: Bud McFarlane

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE Personal Secretary to the President

DATE: 4-15-85

J. Earl Coke is an oldtime friend and former Governorship appointee of RR's.

Can you please prepare a reply for the President to personally sign.

filly, State Thanks. (v

8511853

J. EARL COKE

1042 ENGLISH OAKS DRIVE

ARGADIA, GALIFORNIA 91006

310733

Dear President Reagan,

April 4, 1985.

I have wished many times I were back in the saddle so to speak and helping you out in any way I could. Peggie and I were so proud of you during the campaign. I even made a few speeches here and there just to get my word in. We are equally proud today. The nature of this letter however involves another matter.

I have been approached quite strongly by my church affiliation (Presbyterian) nationally to try and reach you concerning the plight of the missionary Ben Wier and his coprisoners in Lebanon. The wife Carol Wier feels after a visit to Washington trying to make contact with George Schultz that the situation after approximately one year is stalemated. She feels her husband is a political pawn and that they really have nothing against him. I realize there appears to be no visable progress and there must be reasons why.

The telephone calls to me from the synod members in New York are tragic and my heart goes out to Ben Wiers wife. She seems to have reached a breaking point. I tried to reasure the Presbetary officials that you would know exactly what was going on in your cabinet. The pressure is on however and I could not refuse to write you.

In a lighter vein I would be remiss if I did not ask you to convey my regards to your lovely Nancy. I am an equal fan of hers. Peggie and I are enjoying life here in Arcadia. She joins me in good wishes to you both.

Fondest regards,

Earl

P.S.

My main contact is Mr. J. Oscar McMcloud, General Director Presbyterian Church U.S.A. 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y.10115.

J. EARL COKE

1042 English Oaks Drive

ARCADIA, GALIFORNIA 91006

Mrs. Kathleen Osborne, Secretary to the President of the United States, Washingto D,C, 20000. April 4,1985.

Dear Mrs. Osborne,

I have taken the liberty of sending the inclosed message to President Reagan through you. Your kindness has been appreciated in the past and I felt the delicacy of the subject should not go through other chanels.

Sincerely,

Earl Coke

National Security Council The White House

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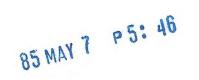
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