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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0086

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

ROUTE TO: ACT DATE TYPE C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME) CODE YY/MM/DD RESP D YY/MM/DD

IA COLE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS ORG 85/05/14 CC A 85/05/20
REFERRAL NOTE: ATTENTION: CECI COLE-MCINTRUFF

99/DOS REFERRAL NOTE: R 85/06/14 A 85/08/07 AB

REFERRAL NOTE: _____
REFERRAL NOTE: _____
REFERRAL NOTE: _____
REFERRAL NOTE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200 _____

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION CODES: *OUTGOING *
* * * CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC * * OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

S/S # 8517733

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: The Honorable Mike McManus
DATE: May 9, 1985 SUBJECT: Urges the President to inter-
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
- 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)

85 AUG 7 P11:32

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM



United States Department of State

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.

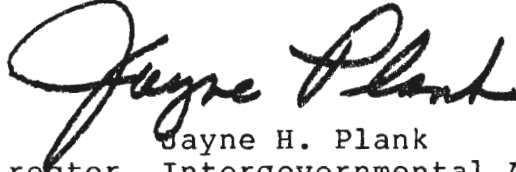
The Administration is deeply concerned about the Americans still missing in Lebanon, and had hoped to secure their freedom when the hostages from TWA flight 847 were released. Unfortunately, this proved impossible. The Administration is continuing its intensive diplomatic contacts, as we pursue all plausible 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jayne Plank". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jayne H. Plank
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
Office of Legislative and
Intergovernmental Affairs

8517733

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

JUNE 14, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

9517733

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1985

Dear Senator McManus:

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank you 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 attention, 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,



Ceci Cole McInturff
Special Assistant to the President
for Intergovernmental Affairs

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



S
C. Cofe: m^e Interoff

8517733

304223

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,

Mike McManus

Senator Mike McManus

MM:it

11-11-11

11-11-11

11-11-11

11-11-11

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

20086

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

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
DOUG HOLLADAY		ORG	85/06/06		C 85/06/11
<i>Bob Kimmitt - NSC</i>		A	85/06/11		D 85/06/12 AB
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

State Draft Reply

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

- *****
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | CODE = A | * |
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| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY | | | * |
- *****

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MANAGEMENT.

Young Holladay



305286

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS

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.

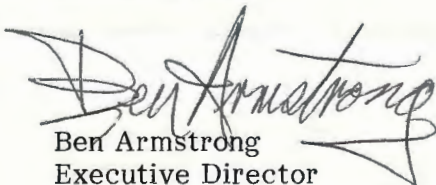
As a member of the Presbyterian Church - U. S. A., I am concerned, and I know you are, too, for someone who has suffered a brutal abduction in Lebanon. Ben Weir is a lifelong member of San Francisco Presbytery engaged in overseas ministry for many years following pastoral service in California.

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

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00086

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85 103131

8510090

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Lawrence H. Richards

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Writes concerning efforts to release Ben Weir, who was abducted in Lebanon

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
CoKell	ORIGINATOR	85 10 4 01		C 85 10 4 30B
<u>WDS</u>	Referral Note: R	85 10 4 3		A 85 10 4 17 AB
	Referral Note:	1 1		1 1
	Referral Note:	1 1		1 1
	Referral Note:	1 1		1 1

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 Action Necessary
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- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

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- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- 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

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4500 _____

Prime Subject Code: CO 086 Secondary Subject Codes: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
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

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- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
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- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

JUN 87

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:


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
- 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



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:

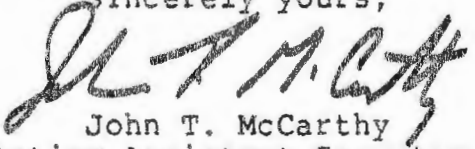
I am replying to your message to President Reagan concerning the status of the Reverend Benjamin Weir, who was kidnapped in Beirut in May 1984.

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

8510090

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

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
note 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

37

308254

Synod of the Southeast

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

8510090



JAMES A. NISBET, Executive Coordinator
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

J. Kelly

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

308824

Spring of the Southland

9510030



March 22, 1913

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

There is the spirit of sacrifice of the war, and the
of the world's people, and the
of the world's people, and the
of the world's people, and the

I urge you to increase your efforts and to
of the world's people, and the
of the world's people, and the

I also urge you to call the people and the
of the world's people, and the
of the world's people, and the

Thank you for your attention to this special matter.

Very respectfully yours,

James B. Hughes
Secretary-Treasurer

CO086

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

8510101

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85 103 1 28

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss William Hopper

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Writes concerning efforts to release Ben Weis, who was abducted in Lebanon.

ROUTE TO:		ACTION	DISPOSITION		
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	CoKell	ORIGINATOR	85 10 4 01	C	85 10 4 30 ^{AB}
	<i>dos</i>	R	85 10 4 13	A	85 10 4 17 ^{AB}
			1 1		1 1
			1 1		1 1
			1 1		1 1

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 - C - Comment/Recommendation
 - D - Draft Response
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- O - Memo**
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- 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:


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

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: VARIOUS DATES NSC # VARIOUS:
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REMARKS:


Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 17, 1985

*Same letter
sent to
this writer*

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

Dear Mr. Richards:

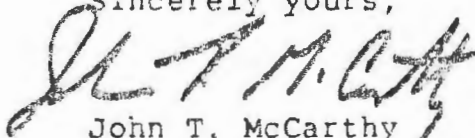
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Sincerely yours,


John T. McCarthy
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

8510101

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

APRIL 3, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 308256

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 25, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: *noted*
MR. WILLIAM H. HOPPER JR.
~~ASSOCIATE PASTOR~~
LAFAYETTE - ORINDA UNITED
W.H.H.] PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
49 KNOX DRIVE
LAFAYETTE CA 94549

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

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SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

8510101

S. Kelley



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. Hopper, Jr.

William H. Hopper, Jr.
Associate Pastor

WHH:bf

2

608148

1010101

Latvian-Chinese United Presbyterian Church



The United Methodist Church
1234 5th Street
New York, N.Y. 10001

The following information is being provided to you for your information and to assist you in your efforts to contact the appropriate authorities in the U.S. Department of State. The information is being provided to you for your information and to assist you in your efforts to contact the appropriate authorities in the U.S. Department of State.

It is requested that you contact the appropriate authorities in the U.S. Department of State for further information. The information is being provided to you for your information and to assist you in your efforts to contact the appropriate authorities in the U.S. Department of State.

Latvian-Chinese United Presbyterian Church

608148 - 1010101 - 1234 5th Street - New York, N.Y. 10001

JV

C0086

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

8510511

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85 103129

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Robert S. Hampel

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Urges that efforts to obtain the release of Ben Weir be increased.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
CoKell	ORIGINATOR	85 10 7 03		C	85 10 4 30 AB
<u>ADOS</u>	Referral Note: R	85 10 4 5		A	85 10 4 17 AB
	Referral Note:	1 1			1 1
	Referral Note:	1 1			1 1
	Referral Note:	1 1			1 1
	Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
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- D - Draft Response
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DISPOSITION CODES:

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- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- 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

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: *L* Individual Codes: *4500*

Prime Subject Code: *CO086* Secondary Subject Codes: *TR00303*

 RM033.11
 _____
 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P. _____
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
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- 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:


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
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)



*Same letter
sent to this
writer*

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

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

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

18
SK
8510511

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

35450 Newark Boulevard, Newark, California, 94560 (415) 797-8811

Pastors: Robert S. Hampel, D. Min.; Gary M. Lawson, M. Div.

308778

March 25, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

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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sg

309889

ID # _____

CO 086

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85104114

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss Thomas H. Wehrle

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Worked as missionaries with Rev. Benjamin Weir abducted in Lebanon. Asks for support of his release

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	CoHyde	ORIGINATOR	85104110		C	85/05/02 8471 1
	<i>✓ Gos</i>	R	85104115		A	85/04/24 841 1

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 Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

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- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- 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

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000 _____

Prime Subject Code: CO 086 Secondary Subject Codes: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

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

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- 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

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- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

S/S # 8511368DATE May 1, 1985DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORMFOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane
National Security Council
The White HouseREFERENCE:TO: President Reagan FROM: Thomas H. Woehrlé
DATE: April 4, 1985 SUBJECT: Reverend Benjamin
WeirWHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: April 15, 1985 NSC # 309889THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATEACTION TAKEN:

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

REMARKS:

Nicholas Platt
Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert M. Smalley".

Robert M. Smalley
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

8511368

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E
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. WOHRLE
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

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

April 4, 1985

8511368

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

Dear Mr. President:

When my wife and I served as missionaries in Syria
 from 1960-1963 the Rev. Benjamin Weir was our
 supervisor. He is a kind, gentle and compassionate
 person. We urge you to do everything you can
 to effect his release from his abductors in
 Lebanon.

We would be grateful for any effort you
 make in this most urgent and important
 situation.

Thank you very much for the careful
 consideration we know you will give our
 request.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Wohrle

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. Woehrle
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
 An information copy of a direct reply is attached
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below
 Other

REMARKS:

Nicholas Platt
Nicholas Platt for
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Smalley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert M. Smalley
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

8511368

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

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. WOHRLE
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

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

April 4, 1985

8511368

~~J. Kelly~~
 President Ronald Reagan
 The White House
 Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

When my wife and I served as missionaries in Syria from 1960-1963 the Rev. Benjamin Weir was our supervisor. He is a kind, gentle and compassionate person. We urge you to do everything you can to effect his release from his abductors in Lebanon.

We would be grateful for any effort you make in this most urgent and important situation.

Thank you very much for the careful consideration we know you will give our request.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Wehrle

JV

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0086

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85104110

8511853

Name of Correspondent: Mr. Mrs. Miss J. Earl Coke

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Seeks release of Reverend Benjamin Weir who has been in captivity in Lebanon over 348 days

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
Callahan	<u>PROSBO</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85104115</u>		<u>C 85104115</u>
	<u>WOS</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>85104119</u>		<u>C 8510424</u>
	<u>NS meza</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>85104115</u>		<u>C 85105117</u>
	<u>PR Reag</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>85105117</u>	<u>CP3</u>	<u>A 85105117</u>
			<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
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DISPOSITION CODES:

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- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: See memo from Kathy Osborne

WS

27153655

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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 Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 5300 _____

Prime Subject Code: C0086 - _____ Secondary Subject Codes: JR 003 _____
RM 033 11 _____
JE 023-03 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
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- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
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- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

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- 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.

-2-

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

Sincerely

Ron

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

MEMORANDUM

3346

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Received SS

1985 MAY 17 11 11: 1

May 17, 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SIGNED

FROM: ROBERT C. McFARLANE *RCM*

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

Still, there is little encouraging we can say to Mrs. Weir about locating the hostages, about leverage with the kidnapers, 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 kidnapers' 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

May 6, 1985

UNCLASSIFIED
(with CONFIDENTIAL attachment)

SIGNED

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 *ly* Disapprove _____

Attachments:

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

UNCLASSIFIED
(with CONFIDENTIAL attachment)



3046
S/S 8511853
United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 24, 1985

UNCLASSIFIED

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.


for Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

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

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198 1 - ...

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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.

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

8511853

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

APRIL 19, 1985

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.

Thanks.

*Sally, Send to
State for draft
redraft*

J. EARL COKE
1042 ENGLISH OAKS DRIVE
ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA 91006

8511853

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 co-prisoners 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 visible 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 reassure 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,



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, CALIFORNIA 91006

Mrs. Kathleen Osborne,
Secretary to the
President of the United States,
Washington 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 chanel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Coke". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Sincerely,".

National Security Council
The White House

System # T
Package # 3346

85 MAY 17 P 3: 15

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Bob Kimmitt	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	_____	_____	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Wilma Hall	_____	_____	_____
Bud McFarlane	_____	_____	_____
Bob Kimmitt	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>2</u>	_____	<u>D</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____

I = Information **A = Action** R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Regan Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

85 MAY 17 P 3: 15

National Security Council
The White House

P
142

System # I
Package # 3346

1749

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>2</u>	<u>K</u>	
John Poindexter	<u>3</u>	<u>J</u>	
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall		<u>W</u>	
Bud McFarlane	<u>4</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>A</u>
Bob Kimmitt		<u>B</u>	
NSC Secretariat	<u>5</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>A</u>
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Regan Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

85 MAY 7 P 5: 46

RECEIVED 25 APR 85 12

TO PRESIDENT

FROM COKE, J EARL

DOCDATE 04 APR 85

PLATT, N

42 APR 85

KEYWORDS: LEBANON

TERRORISM

WEIR, BENJAMIN

MP

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM COKE RE AMERICAN KIDNAPPED LEBANON

ACTION: MEMO KIMMITT TO SALLY KELLEY DUE: 29 APR 85 STATUS S FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COVEY

NORTH

COMMENTS SEE YOUR 8503253

RLF# 310733

8511853

LOG 8503253

NSCIFID

(LB)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
<i>RM</i>	<i>4 5/6</i>	<i>To Dennis</i>	<i>5/6</i>	
<i>Pres</i>	<i>5/17</i>	<i>Signature</i>		
	<i>5/17</i>	<i>Pres repl ltr</i>		<i>Jc, on,</i>

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE (C)

WJP