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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1985

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FG006 1/2

Dear Congressman Tauke:

Thank you for your letter of February 26,  
forwarding the proposal written by your  
constituent, Jim Sheronick. *re*

Your interest in Lebanon is well placed and genuinely appreciated. The tragic situation there is much on our minds.

Mr. Sheronick's paper does capture the main elements of this difficult situation. You can be sure that while the efforts to bring stability and unity back to Lebanon have a long way to go, we are determined to continue those efforts.

Sincerely,

*Robert C. McFarlane*

Robert C. McFarlane

The Honorable Tom Tauke  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

NSC 8501892

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*April 1, 1985*

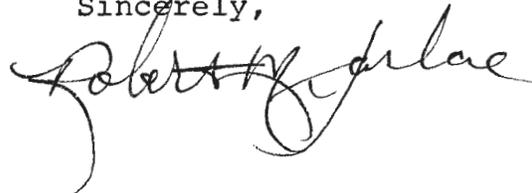
Dear Congressman Tauke:

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Sincerely,



The Honorable Tom Tauke  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

April 1, 1985

SIGNED

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM: JOCK COVEY *JC*

SUBJECT: Letter from Representative Tauke

Congressman Tom Tauke wrote you (Tab A) to forward a paper on Lebanon prepared by a constituent of his.

Tauke's constituent put together a well-intended but shallow overview of the situation in Lebanon. He went on to propose a very active role for the U.S. in which we would use our influence to bring democracy to Lebanon, to accomplish Israeli withdrawal, to achieve a homeland for Palestinian refugees, to make Jerusalem an independent entity, and to persuade Syria that its own security would be best served by restoring Lebanon's sovereignty. It is hard to claim any special merit for the paper.

Attached at Tab I is an acknowledgment.

*JC* Ron Sable concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the acknowledgment to Tauke at Tab I.

Approve *WJ* Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

- Tab I Note to Congressman Tauke
- Tab A Incoming correspondence

National Security Council  
The White House

System # I  
Package # 1892

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	_____	_____	_____
Bob Kimmitt	<u>1</u>	<u>K</u>	_____
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)



National Security Council  
The White House

121

33

~~121~~

System # I

Package # 1892

2 P5

121

1882

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>2</u>	<u>J</u>	
John Poindexter	<u>3</u>		
Paul Thompson	<u>4</u>		
Wilma Hall	<u>5</u>		
Bud McFarlane	<u>6</u>	<u>m</u>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>7</u>		
NSC Secretariat			
Situation Room			

Have original  
 [Handwritten signature and scribbles]

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)

*Handwritten notes and signatures in the bottom section, including 'all patches' and a signature.*

15 APR 2 P 6: 08

*Tock  
ack?*



1592

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING  
HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE  
TASK FORCE FOR THE RURAL ELDERLY

February 26, 1985

**RCM HAS SEEN**

Mr. Robert C. McFarlane  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. McFarlane:

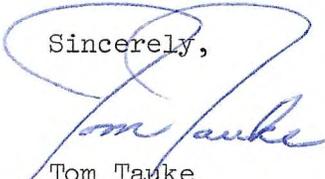
The continuing strife in Lebanon is a constant reminder of the "tinderbox" nature of the Middle East. The complexity of the conflicts are baffling to most Americans. However, to the many Americans born in the Middle East, the sources of the conflicts are well understood.

I therefore commend to you for review a copy of a proposal entitled "New Road to Peace in Lebanon and the Middle East" written by a constituent of mine, Jim Sheronick. Mr. Sheronick is a native of Lebanon and has impressed me with his breadth of understanding and his passion to resolve the disputes which have kept the Middle East in a state of turmoil.

I would appreciate your reviewing Mr. Sheronick's proposal for U.S. policies in the Middle East.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,  
  
Tom Tauke  
Member of Congress

TT/ap  
Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE INDICATED.

435 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
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(319) 242-6180

85 MAR 7 A 9 05

NOV 24 1985

NEW ROAD TO PEACE IN LEBANON AND THE MIDDLE EAST

By

A. H. "Jim" Sheronick

Dedicated

to

World Peace

Presented

to

President Ronald Reagan

11-1-84

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this work is to present a realistic and objective approach for a lasting peace in the war-torn Lebanon and tranquility in the strife-ridden Middle East.

To provide some background, three main areas are discussed briefly:

1. Basic traditions and values of pre-war Lebanon ("the Lebanon that once was"),
2. The changes that the ten-year wars and their influence have brought about ("the Lebanon that has become"), and
3. The underlying factors leading to the Wars. The bulk of this work, however, is devoted to presenting a methodical, comprehensive and peaceful solution to this difficult problem.

The author himself is a Lebanese by birth, where he lived the early years of his life until he came to America, his adopted land, 35 years ago. He knows, firsthand, Lebanon and the Middle East, their peoples, cultures and language, and is keenly aware of their thinking, their problems and their aspirations. His desire is to see an end to the bloodshed and destruction in Lebanon and his objective is straight and simple: Real and just peace for ALL the Middle East. IT IS ATTAINABLE.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author wishes to thank United States Congressman Tom Tauke of the Iowa Second District for giving of his time graciously and generously to hear a verbal discussion of the author's ideas on the subject matter. His encouragement that led to this writing and the presentation of it was invaluable.

Also, special thanks to Robert D. Ray, former Governor of Iowa, for his valuable counsel and interest.

The author alone, however, takes full responsibility for the entire text.

## NEW ROAD TO PEACE IN LEBANON AND THE MIDDLE EAST

### Lebanon, the Country That Was

Historically, Lebanon is mainly a village community. Outside of Beirut, the capitol, and to a much lesser extent, Tripoli, the entire nation's social and economic life and values evolve around the village. Even the values of the people of the city are rooted in the village from whence they or their ancestors once came, and where they still have strong ties with their village relatives and feel quite at home with village culture when they come to visit.

The village itself is a farm community held together to a large extent by blood ties either directly or through intermarriage. Religion is a serious matter in the village and its fervor reaches beyond the church or mosque, and well into the fields and social life. Often the same village is settled by both Muslims and Christian families of various sects. Down through the centuries, they lived side by side and worked their vineyards or little plots of land in perfect peace and harmony.

Next to his religion, the villager's most valuable possessions are his honor, his family and his land, in that order. God's name and blessing is invoked any-time they are mentioned. The church or mosque or both are the center of religion as well as social and recreational life. On religious holidays, weddings and funerals, the activities of the whole community come to a halt and the occasion is shared by all, irrespective of faith. Children take part in the work as well as celebrations alongside their elders and learn from an early age the art of cooperation and religious tolerance.

Any discord or dispute among families or individuals is quickly meditated and settled by the respected elders and harmony is restored almost immediately. The Sahra (evening get-together) is a very unifying and enjoyable institution where the villagers get together in a different house each night (during the off fieldwork seasons) on a rotating basis and exchange stories, tell jokes, compete in composing and reciting folk songs and partake in the food and refreshment prepared by the host family. Save for the socializing of the Sahra, complete quiet and serenity veils the community until morn. Beirut, on the other hand, is a 24-hour-a-day city, with an international flair and elegant nightclubs, luxurious hotels, and cuisine restaurants comparable to New York, Paris or London. It is a center for learning and culture and a hub for banking, commerce, international trade, recreation and excitement. Its merchants do business in literally every city in the world, and merchants from all over the world crowd its trade offices. There is hardly anything produced anywhere on earth that doesn't quickly find its way to Beirut's market from music and fashion to complicated high technology. Its beautiful and expanded beaches and its nearby summer resorts and climate attracts tourist and fun seekers from just about every country.

All religions of the world are represented in Beirut and all enjoy equal freedom. Although everyone speaks Arabic, the native language, every other language in the world may be heard or is being spoken in the streets of Beirut from Chinese to English.

### Lebanon, the Country It Became

The description given earlier can hardly fit Lebanon of today. The ravaging wars, civil and otherwise, changed all that.

The Lebanese Civil War broke out in 1975, first in Beirut and soon spilled over to almost every village and hamlet in the country. Beirut itself was reduced to rubble. All that was left was bombed out buildings, blood on its streets and bodies strewn everywhere. Sewage and water systems, roads, telephone, schools, you name it, were all destroyed, and the smell of dead bodies and infectious disease became rampant.

The once peaceful villages are no longer peaceful, and often an entire village was destroyed and its inhabitants massacred by the people of a neighboring village. All that was said above about the serene life of the village is no more. There is no longer a safe place anywhere. The whole country seems to have gone mad. Everyone has taken to the streets with deadly weapons and explosives in search of someone to kill or something to destroy. The government itself was dismantled and its small army disbanded. The nation has fallen!

No one, but no one, escaped the ravages of the war. There is hardly anyone that hasn't lost a loved one to its savagery.

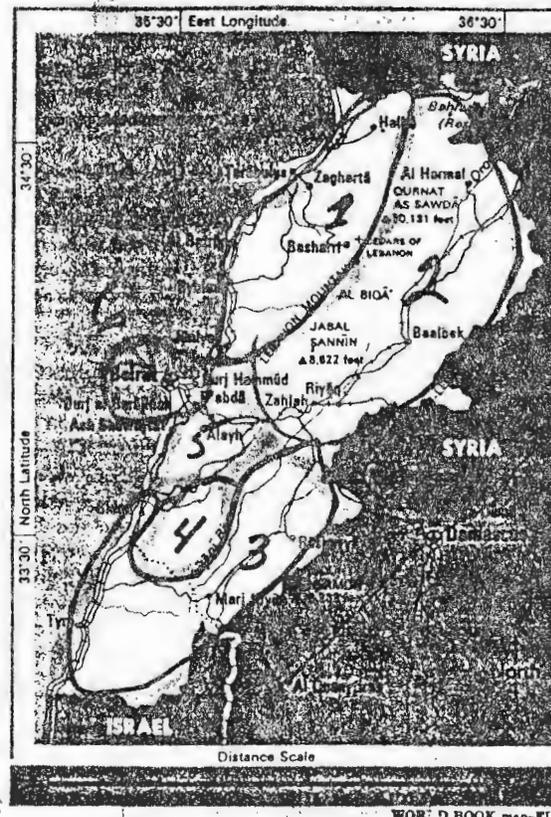
Recently, the shooting has quieted down somewhat and the people, out of mere exhaustion, have taken a little respite from the war. The war, however, is by no means over. Its fire is still smoldering underneath the surface and in the hearts of the people who are still hungry for revenge. It is only a matter of time before it breaks out again.

## Lebanon, the Occupied Country

The tiny little country has now been segmented and occupied by six different forces, each with its own philosophy and rules. See segmented Lebanon map below:

### LEBANON

- ⊗ Capital
- Other City or Town
- Road
- +— Rail Line
- ..... Oil Pipeline
- ▲ MOUNTAIN
- River



Key to occupation map:

1. The phalangists under the leadership of the late Piere Gimayel, father of the current President. 2. Syria. 3. Israel. 4. The late Saad Haddad's Army (proxy of Israel). 5. The militia's army of the Druze leader Walid Jumblat, and the Shi'ite leader, Nabih Berry. 6. The official Lebanese government of President Amin Gimayel.

For all practical purposes, the country is totally paralyzed with all of its economic activities halted and its fertile fields such as the Bekaa Valley, the country's breadbasket, left fallow to be used by Syria and Israel as mine and battlefields. The coastal plains where citrus fruit and vegetables are normally produced have long been destroyed by the Israelis and PLO encounter.

Mobility of goods and people is almost non-existent. A Lebanese visitor to the United States recently informed me that it took him seven days to cut through the Israeli red tape so he could cross four miles distance from the area occupied by Israel in the Bekaa Valley over to the Syrian side of that area.

#### Waring Parties and Their Reasons

Primarily, there are two main parties to the conflict, the Muslims (including Shi'ites and Druze) on one side and the Christian (including Maronites and other sects) on the other.

Reason? Same for both sides: larger share in the government. Although there has not been an official census taken in Lebanon since 1932, each side claims that it constitutes the majority of the population and should have more share in government jobs and more representation in the government, particularly the office of the presidency. This dispute did not develop overnight. It had been in the making for years. The same problem reared its head at least once before (in 1968) and a real showdown was put off only temporarily then when the United States Marines landed in Lebanon.

This time, many more interested factions from all over the world got

involved in the conflict on one side or the other. Some indirectly through logistic and financial support, others directly by taking actual active part in the conflict and the wars that followed. Those who got involved directly were Syria, the PLO and Israel. Syria and Israel both claim that their involvement was necessary for "peace keeping" and "national security" reasons. The PLO claims that their involvement was imperative for "self-preservation."

The PLO was uprooted and evacuated from their stronghold in Lebanon by a massive Israeli invasion into Lebanon. The Israeli and the Syrians have refused to leave Lebanon and they both became occupying forces.

#### The Cost of the War and Who Pays For It

In terms of human lives, everyone that got involved in the Lebanese conflict has paid dearly. The Syrians, the PLO, Israelis, all have lost. Even the Americans, the French, the Italians and British, who came there on a peace keeping mission, paid with human lives. But, the dearest cost of all was paid by the Lebanese themselves and the PLO with thousands upon thousands of casualties--the dead, the maimed and the crippled for life. The grief, the broken hearts and the mental anguish and all the other aspects of human misery and suffering inflicted upon the innocent people there are all part of the casualties. Will these people ever be the same again? What value can be placed on these losses? No one can tell.

In economic terms, the losses of the ravaging wars are just as staggering. One way to assess the economic losses may be to add up the lost productivity

of all the thousands of the war dead and those whose lives were rendered useless by wars from all sides--Lebanese, Israelis, Syrians, Americans and any other nationals. Add to that all the destroyed cities and towns, all the stores, shops and warehouses that were all wiped out; the crops and livestock for the last 10 years, the highways, the streets and utilities; the time of all the warring factions and that of their suppliers and supporters and the cost of their equipment and munitions for the same 10 year period; the cost of destroyed or looted personal properties, cars, household goods, etc.; ... and, finally, the cost of rebuilding or replacing all of this. YET, PEACE IS NO CLOSER NOW THAN IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO WHEN THE WAR STARTED.

#### Who Pays the Cost Ultimately

If the past is any indication of the future, the ultimate cost will be borne by the American taxpayers. The Americans have already paid dearly in lives and material. Maintaining the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean is in itself staggering. Yes, eventually the American taxpayers will be paying through rebuilding and renovation programs and humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance.

#### Did Anyone Benefit from These Wars?

Outside of the gunrunners and the looters, the Lebanese wars have brought no benefit to anyone in the world except Russia. Bluntly put, peace in the region will not be in the Russians' best interest. Communists' interest

can only be served through constant turmoil and unrest in the area.

### Can Anyone Do Anything to Bring About Peace in the Area?

Yes. Only the United States of America. The United States is the only country that has enough prestige, power, clout and reason to bring about peace in Lebanon, and that whole troubled region. It is high time the United States used its influence to that end--really used its influence. All the warring factions will respect and listen to the United States--all the factions.

They all trust her, Israel and the Lebanese government for sure. The Lebanese Muslims and Syria would willingly and gladly trust and cooperate with her, given the right approach. Syria's interest, values and religion are more at home with the West than with the East. There is almost no family in Lebanon, Christian or Muslim, that does not have close relatives in the United States and feel special ties with her. Yes, they will all trust the United States. Why not? After all, the United States will be helping all of them get precisely and in a peaceful way what they all have been trying to get by force, but have not been able to attain: peace.

### Why Should the United States Get Involved?

The United States has no choice but to get involved because:

1. By fate, or otherwise, the United States is the leader of the free world and free people everywhere look to her for leadership and guidance.

2. The United States is sensitive to human rights and suffering. She could not just stand by and watch human suffering and misery continue to take their toll while she has the ability and the means to stop it. Besides, any abuse to democracy and human rights anywhere in the free world is a threat to those of her own at home.
3. The United States has a personal and vital interest to protect in that highly volatile Middle East region. Not getting positively involved is not only contrary to that interest but it is a direct threat to it. Instability and constant turmoil in that important part of the world is also a threat to her peace and stability at home.
4. By the same token, instability and constant unrest in that area will without doubt serve the interest of Communism and further its cause, which thrives on the people's misery and oppression, and starves where there is prosperity and freedom. Russia has invested heavily in the Middle East to lay the ground for the spread of Communism in that region. Peace in the area will frustrate their plans and stop its spread.
5. Finally, the situation in Lebanon presents a challenge and opportunity to the United States. A challenge to stand up for what she believes in and an opportunity to

show the whole world that she practices what she preaches. Such opportunity must not be lost.

### How Can Peace Be Accomplished?

The first step on the road to peace in Lebanon and the Middle East is the establishing of a stable national government in Lebanon. This will immediately release at least three countries (Israel, Syria, Lebanon and its various factions) and also the PLO from a deadlock position they are in, and start them on the way to normalizing their daily life. Indirectly, this will bring about a more peaceful life in many more countries of the region and will also undercut the troublemakers and mercenaries and short circuit their terroristic activities.

This undertaking is, of course, easier said than done. But it, nevertheless, is quite possible. To achieve it, the United States must:

1. Use its influence and the influence of its friends to persuade the traditional ruling faction in Lebanon that: In a Democracy, government belongs to the people and must not be given only to a certain group; that without equality there would be no peace; that without freely elected government that is representative of all the people, Democracy can't exist; that it is in the interest of all the factions that the government be dissectionarized. Otherwise, upheaval and unrest will continue to plague the country to the benefit of no one. The enlistment of the Vatican in this matter may be quite helpful.

2. Use its influence as mentioned earlier to persuade Israel that it is in the latter's best interest to withdraw its forces from Lebanon quickly and unconditionally, liquidate its Saad Haddad militia in southern Lebanon and refrain from interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs. She must make Israel realize that remaining in Lebanon will only drain her own resources and will definitely not make Israel more secure. In fact, the opposite is more likely, as security through force will heighten rather than lessen insecurity--force begets force. Establishing a homeland for the Palestinian refugees with the right for self determination is a must, for five main reasons:

- a. Without a homeland of their own for the Palestine refugees, their terroristic activities and raids against Israel will not stop, as we have seen in the past.
- b. A homeland of their own will take them out of their host countries where they will no longer be able to meddle in those countries' affairs.
- c. They will be taken off the welfare rolls, and a homeland of their own will make

them behave more responsibly, as they will be very busy building up their own country and minding their own affairs. They will no longer want to engage in any terroristic activities that might jeopardize their newly found independence, and instead they will become more peaceful neighbors to Israel--in time, maybe even friends.

- d. A homeland for the Palestinian refugees will bring them together and make it easier for Israel to fend against them, in the unlikely possibility that the needs for fending should arise. It must be realized that Palestinian refugees presently have nothing to lose and that carrying on terroristic activities against Israel is the only thing they have to live for. Israel can't kill them all or contain them in any other place to escape their danger, and
- e. Without settling the refugee problem, Israel will not likely reach a peaceful relation with its Arab neighbors in the area.

- 3. Jerusalem is a holy city revered by all three faiths. All parties must be persuaded that the city be an independent entity, with an

independent government and administration consisting of a council representing the three religions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

4. Persuade Syria that her own security will also be better served by restoring Lebanon's sovereignty. That the United States' role in the mediation is strictly impartial, and that the United States is genuinely interested in Syria's security as well as that of other nations in the area. That the United States can be trusted as a friend and ally and can be an honest mediator. That Syria's forces as well as those of Israel must leave Lebanese soil as soon as the Lebanese government is in a position to exercise its own sovereignty over the whole of Lebanon.
5. Encourage Lebanon to set up a provisional government with authorities to govern during the transitional period, including disarming all the factions in the country, groups, organizations and individuals; take the internal security function over from all factions that are presently involved; namely, Israel, Syria, Phalangists, Muslim or any other groups; supervise the departure of all foreign troops; set dates for and supervise the election of a new democratic, non-sectarian, national government.

6. Use the accomplishments achieved so far as a first step toward a more comprehensive peace in the entire Arab Middle East, where there is a total, equitable and lasting peace between Israel and all of the Arab countries (versus peace with only one country at a time).

On that day, all the countries of the Middle East will proudly celebrate their new beginning and victory. They will have all won and there will be no losers. They can now marshal their resources and energy away from war and destruction to peace and rebuilding. The Free World at large will win and the only loser will be the enemies of peace and the troublemakers. Lebanon and the Middle East will then be off the warpath and on the road of a lasting peace that will lead all the way to, and include, the very Persian Gulf area itself.

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8501892

RECEIVED 08 MAR 85 10

TO MCFARLANE

FROM TAUKE, TOM

DOCDATE 26 FEB 85

KEYWORDS: MIDDLE EAST

MCO

SUBJECT: LTR TO MCFARLANE FM REP TAUKE RE MIDDLE EAST

ACTION: ANY ACTION NECESSARY

DUE: 14 MAR 85 STATUS S FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COVEY

SABLE

TEICHER

THOMPSON

HALL

COMMENTS LOGGED PER MCFARLANE

REF# LOG NSCIFID ( LB )

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
Rm	4/1	La Signature	4/5	Jay R S WTT
	C 4/9	Mcfarlone spd ltr		

DISPATCH *[Signature]* W/ATTCH FILE (C)



*20086*

**WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

O - OUTGOING  
 H - INTERNAL  
 I - INCOMING  
 Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85/04/29

Name of Correspondent:  Mr.  Mrs.  Miss Else Horn

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Seeks release of Rev. Benjamin Weir, a  
hostage 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
<u>CoWals</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85/05/01</u> <sup>TR</sup>		<u>C</u>	<u>85/05/29</u> <sup>AB</sup>
<u>DOS</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>85/05/02</u> <sup>TR</sup>		<u>a</u>	<u>85/05/14</u> <sup>AB</sup>
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>
		<u>1/1</u>			<u>1/1</u>

**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

**DISPOSITION CODES:**

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

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- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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No. of Additional Correspondents: \_\_\_\_\_ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prime Subject Code: CP086 Secondary Subject Codes: ND016 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

UNCLASSIFIED  
(CLASSIFICATION)

S/S # 8513627

DATE MAY 28 1985

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

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

REFERENCE:

TO: President: Reagan      FROM: Mrs. Else Horn  
DATE: April 28, 1985      SUBJECT: Release of Benjamin  
Weir

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: May 2, 1985      NSC # 313018

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:

  
Nicholas Platt *NV*  
Executive Secretary

85 MAY 29 A 2: 38

WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 14, 1985

Mrs. Else Horn  
The Christian Broadcasting  
Network, Inc.  
Suite 302  
7223 Lee Highway  
Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Dear Mrs. Horn:

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.

The U.S. Government is very concerned about the terrorist attacks on Americans in Beirut, of which Mr. Weir's kidnapping is a tragic example. As you may know, an organization calling itself "Islamic Jihad" has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, but very little is known about the group.

The Department of State and our Embassies overseas are following every possible lead 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 also remain in close consultation with the Weir family.

We understand your concern for Mr. Weir's safe return, and share your impatience, but believe we should not comment 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 or 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.

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,

Edward P. Djerejian  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Public Affairs and  
Acting Spokesman

8513627

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

REFERRAL

MAY 2, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:  
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 313018  
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 28, 1985  
TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN  
FROM: MRS. ELSE HORN  
THE CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING  
NETWORK, INC.  
SUITE 302  
7223 LEE HIGHWAY  
FALLS CHURCH VA 22046

SUBJECT: SEEKS RELEASE OF REVEREND BENJAMIN WEIR, A  
HOSTAGE 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



ELSE HORN

Sunday Evening —  
April 28, 1985

4513627

313018

My dear Mr. President —

I pray God will help you  
to release Dr. Benjamin Weir.

These cards were enclosed in  
all Church programs and will be  
mailed to the White House by our  
Women's Association.

Thank you for your heart-  
warming address last week —

I pray that God will bring  
peace and love with you on your  
forthcoming trip to Germany —

God Psalm 119 —

To Comfort You! —

With Prayer, Love and Wisdom!  
Else Horn

0086 313018

**\* SUNDAY SCHOOL \*  
FOR CHILDREN**

*Crib* — Professional child care from 8:20 to immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service; lower level of the main church.

*Two and Three Year Olds* — Church school classes and child care from 9:30 to immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service; lower level of main church.

*Pre-school* — Classes 9:30-10:45 lower level Ed. Bldg. 10:45-12:15 Music and Child Care Main Church Rm. 8.

*Elementary* — Church school classes 9:30-10:45 in the Education Building.

**FOR YOUTH**  
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Jr. High Lower Level, Meals-On-Wheels  
Sr. High First Floor, Agencies Bldg.

**FOR ADULTS**

All adult classes meet 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

CLASS	ROOM	AGE
Studying: "Covenant to Care" by Dr. Evans		
College & Career	Pastor's Study	20-30

The following classes are studying I Peter  
Theme: "When the Going Gets Tough!"

Netters	110-111	25-40
Seekers	106	40 +
Lamplighters	107	35-45
Becomers	105	All Ages
Covenanters	Session Room	All Ages

This popular class continues:

Wrestlers	Lower Level	All Ages
	Agencies	

*Mustard Seeds* — A class for mentally impaired youth and adults, 9:30-10:45 in the Education Bldg.

**\* SUNDAY MORNING MUSIC EDUCATION \***

11:00 Pre-School Music	Rm. 8	Ages 4 & 5
11:00 Youth Handbells	Rm. 111	Gr. 6-12
11:45 Primary Choir	Rm. 105	Gr. 1-3
11:45 Junior Choir	Rm. 107	Boys Gr. 4-6 Girls Gr. 4-8

**TOUR OF CHURCH COMMENCES IN CHAPEL FOLLOWING 11 O'CLOCK SERVICE**

**OFFICE HOURS:** The Church Office (4101 Nebraska Avenue, N.W. 20016) is open from nine to five o'clock Monday through Friday, from eight-thirty to one-thirty on Sundays. **THIS CHURCH IS AFFILIATED** with The Council of Churches of Greater Washington, The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and The World Council of Churches.

**A SPECIAL INVITATION TO UNITE WITH THIS CHURCH** is cordially extended to all those whose spiritual needs are met by the worship and life of this congregation. You may join the church on (1) Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; (2) Reaffirmation of Faith in Jesus Christ; (3) Transfer of church membership by letter. Please come to the Parlor following the benediction of any Sunday morning worship service to meet with church members and make your application for Church membership. On the last Sunday of every month, following the eleven o'clock service, the Session will meet for the purpose of receiving new members. Formal recognition of membership will occur at the next stated Communion Service.

**VISITORS:** Please complete this form, tear off and place in collection plate or hand to an usher.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Visitor  Would like call or visit  Interested in membership

**\* SUNDAY PROGRAMS \***

**YOUTH GROUP** - We will not be meeting this evening because of the Spring Retreat this weekend.

Next Sunday the Sr. Hi's will be going to a Youth Rally, leaving NPC at 2:30 and arriving back for pick-up at 6:30. The Jr. Hi's will have their meeting from 6:30-8 p.m. in the youth room.

**SEC (for single adults)** - Tonight at 7:00 p.m. in room 105, Dan Longo of the National Cancer Institute will speak on the ethical questions involved in genetic engineering.

**ALL WORSHIPPERS** are invited to the Fellowship Hall on the first floor level following the 11 o'clock worship service where coffee will be served. We would like especially to greet and welcome all visitors.

**C.S. LEWIS INSTITUTE  
COMING TO NPC!**

May 27 - 30

"Christ in the Psalms"

Dr. Edmund Clowney

Former President, Westminster Seminary

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. The Chapel

June 3 - 6

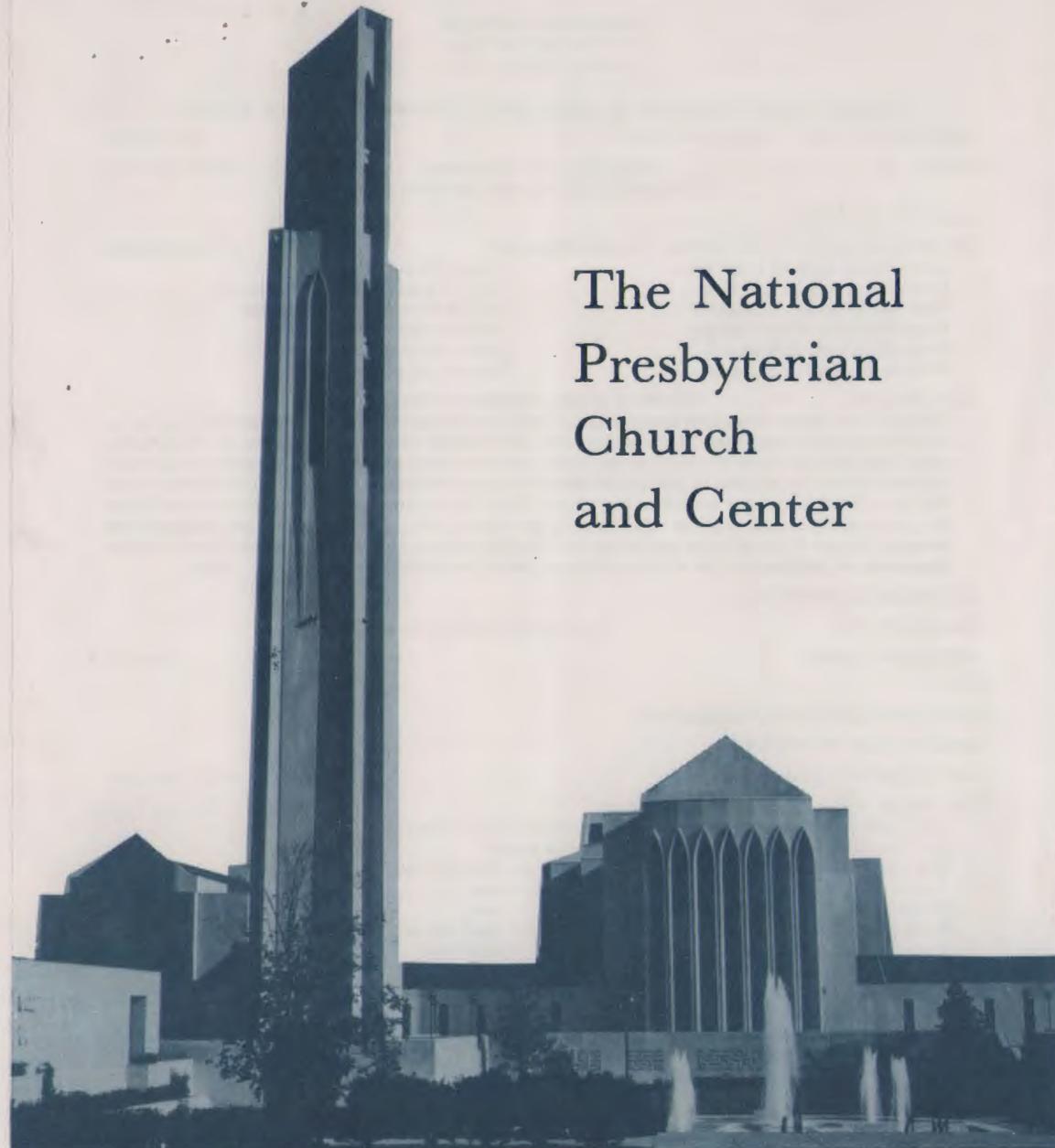
"Language as a Spiritual Enterprise"

Virginia Stern Owens

Christian writer and lay theologian

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. The Chapel

**BIBLE STUDY**, Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Kay Spiritual Life Center on the campus of American University. This will be a topical study to be taught by David Stoker, 537-0925 and Guy Griffith, 538-5230. Call if you have any questions.



The National  
Presbyterian  
Church  
and Center

**PASTORS**

Dr. Louis H. Evans, Jr.  
The Reverend David C. Stoker  
Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, *Emeritus*

The Reverend William E. Foreman  
Ms. Jill Denison, *Seminary Intern*  
Dr. Thomas A. Stone, *Emeritus*

**DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Mr. Henry R. Mastroni

**ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER**  
Mr. Ernest Ligon

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
Mrs. Stephen S. (Margaret) Johnson

**ASSISTANT ORGANIST AND  
CHOIRMASTER**  
Dr. Douglas F. Mears

4101 NEBRASKA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016  
Telephone 202-537-0800

**MORNING WORSHIP**

9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 28, 1985

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the Sanctuary.

ORGAN PRELUDE - "Voluntary for Organ"

John Stanley

HYMN - 10

"Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens"  
(Congregation rises at organ introduction)

Alleluia (Wesley)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

CHORAL INTROIT - "Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor"

Traditional Welsh

Judge eternal, throned in splendor,  
Lord of lords and King of kings,  
With Thy living fire of judgment  
Purge this realm of bitter things;  
Solace all its wide dominion  
With the healing of Thy wings.

Crown, O God, Thine own endeavor;  
Cleave our darkness with Thy sword;  
Feed the faint and hungry peoples  
With the richness of Thy Word;  
Cleanse the body of this nation  
Through the glory of the Lord.

**CONFESSION**

(Leader & people; congregation seated)

O God of love, whose compassion desires to touch every wounded part of your creation, forgive us for our insensitivity to your caring heart. Your eyes have seen the suffering; ours have been blinded by our own concerns. Your ears have heard the cry of the oppressed; ours have been covered with the soft pillows of affluence. You have known the suffering of your people because you have loved them. We have not been close to those who are suffering so we have not shared their agony. Great God, we are sorry for our carelessness and repent of it, determining to walk as Christ walked among the suffering. We commit our sins of self-indulgence and disregard to your forgiving hands and accept from you forgiveness which you freely lavish upon us. In that forgiveness we shall rise to a life of love and service and in that mission we shall rejoice. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

GLORIA PATRI

(Congregation standing and singing)

APOSTLES' CREED

Page xliv

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MINUTE FOR MINISTRY**

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 1:12-27

Page 597 in Old Testament

\*ANTHEM - "Rise, God! Judge Thou the Earth"

Thomas Tallis

Rise, God! Judge Thou the earth in might; this wicked earth redress!  
For Thou art He who shalt by right the nations all possess.  
The nations all whom Thou hast made shall come, and all shall frame  
To bow them low before Thee, Lord, and glorify Thy name.  
Mercy and truth that long were missed now joyfully are met;  
Sweet peace and righteousness have kissed, and hand in hand are set.  
Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blossom then,  
And justice from her heav'nly bower look down on mortal men.  
Thee will I praise, O Lord, my God, Thee honor and adore  
With my whole heart, and blaze abroad Thy name forevermore.  
For great Thou art, and wonders great by Thy strong hand are done.  
Thou in Thy everlasting seat remainest God alone.

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**CALL FOR FAITH GIVING**

"Freely you have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8b

OFFERTORY - "The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Thomas Matthews

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me.  
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

**PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS, DOXOLOGY, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(Congregation standing and singing)

**RESPONSE HYMN**

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
And publish abroad His wonderful Name;  
The Name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;  
His Kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,  
All glory and power, and wisdom and might,  
All honor and blessing, with angels above,  
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite  
love. Amen.

Lyons

**SECOND LESSON - Hebrews 1:1-14**

Page 199 in New Testament

HYMN - 379

"Heralds of Christ"  
(Congregation rises with choir)

National Hymn

SERMON - "In The Fortitude of Justice"

Dr. Evans

HYMN - 368

"Lord God of Hosts"  
(Congregation rises with choir)

Welwyn

**BENEDICTION**

(Congregation seated)

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**SILENT PRAYER**

ORGAN POSTLUDE - "Trumpet Tune"

William Boyce

The end of the organ postlude marks the end of the worship service. If you must leave early, please leave quietly.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*Omitted at the 9:30 Service

\*\*\*Indicates Seating

**FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of beloved ones.

**BE SURE TO STOP** by the Mission Emphasis Book Display in Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 service.

**TODAY, APRIL 28**, at 3:00 p.m., our Chancel Choir will join two other choral groups for an Interfaith CHORAL CELEBRATION of the 300th anniversaries of Bach and Handel and the 75th anniversary of Dr. Herman Berlinski. The concert is at the National City Christian Church, Massachusetts Avenue at 14th Street; parking is available near the church, and there is no admission charge. The choirs and orchestra will perform Handel's Dettingen Te Deum, a Bach cantata, and works by Gabrieli and Berlinski.

**DR. LOUIS EVANS'** topic for the Service of Teaching and Spiritual Healing to be held **this evening** at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel will be "Focused Prayer." All are invited!

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GUILD** - All are welcome at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 4 to an in-depth description of the Stained Glass Windows at NPC by Dr. Edward L.R. Elson, Pastor Emeritus. The program will be in the sanctuary following the B & P Women's luncheon for which reservations can be made by calling Ann Padgette, 933-6458 or Pat Carroll, 681-6411 no later than Tuesday, April 30.

**IF YOU HAVE CHORAL EXPERIENCE** and enjoy singing, consider serving in the church choir. Several special events are planned for this season. For more information contact Mr. Ligon at the organ console following services, or through the music office during the week.

**ALL MARRIED COUPLES** are cordially invited to the Mariner's Skiff dinner meeting Monday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The program will be music by the "Federal City Four." Dinner is \$6.00 per person and reservations must be made in advance by calling Helen Easton, 525-8176 or Dorothy Wilson, 649-1836.

**ANNIVERSARY TEA AND OPEN HOUSE** at the Presbyterian Home, 3050 Military Road, NW, Sunday, May 5th, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. All friends of the Home are cordially invited. Tours of the new Health Center are being featured. Special offering is for annual operating expenses.

**BAZAAR FOR MISSIONS** - Help us prepare for the Bazaar this Fall. The bins are ready for your donations and are in the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Please put donations in the appropriately marked bins. See the April Carillon for details.

**HELP! TODAY IS THE 356th DAY** that the Reverend Benjamin Weir has been held hostage in Lebanon after having served our Lord there as a Presbyterian missionary for 32 years. Today you have the opportunity to make a difference in his life by: 1) Signing the enclosed card in the bulletin, with your return address; and 2) Calling the White House at 456-7639 requesting that the US Administration exert every effort to secure Reverend Weir's release.

**THE CHURCH LIBRARY**, located on the second floor of the administration building, is open weekdays and Sundays during regular office hours. Librarian, Mrs. Parkash Samuel, is on duty Tuesdays and Fridays.

April 28, 1985

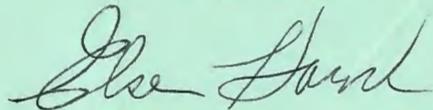
8513627

Dear Mr. President:

Today marks the 356th day that The Reverend Benjamin Weir has been held hostage in Lebanon. I urgently and prayerfully request your direct involvement in the task of securing his release.

May the Lord guide and bless you as you lead our great country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elsie David".

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

sg

ID # 314066

0086

# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

8514481

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85 104104

Name of Correspondent:  Mr.  Mrs.  Miss Sharon Swain

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Requests assistance in getting her uncle, Rev. Ben Weir released from being kidnapped in Beirut, 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
CoCoza	ORIGINATOR	85 105107		C	85 10 7 10 2
<i>DDOS</i>	R	85 10510		A	85 10 6 10 7
		/ /			/ /
		/ /			/ /
		/ /			/ /

#### 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

#### DISPOSITION CODES:

- 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
  - 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

1811181  
1811181

S/S # 8514481  
DATE 1 JUL 1985

'85 JUL 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: Ms. Sharon Swain  
DATE: March 31, 1985 SUBJECT: Benjamin Weir in Lebanon

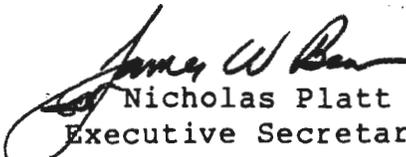
WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: May 10, 1985 NSC # 314066

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  
Executive Secretary

85 JUL 2 12: 34

WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 27, 1985

Ms. Sharon Swain  
21898 Betlen Way  
Castro Valley, California 94546

Dear Ms. Swain:

I am replying to your letters of March 31 to President Reagan and Secretary Shultz concerning the status of your uncle, the Reverend Benjamin Weir. I sincerely regret the delay in this response.

The U.S. Government is deeply concerned about the continuing terrorist attacks on Americans in Beirut, of which Mr. Weir's kidnapping is a tragic example. The Department of State and our Embassies overseas are following every possible lead 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.

As you know, an organization calling itself "Islamic Jihad" has claimed responsibility for the kidnappings of Mr. Weir and several other Americans, but very little is known about the group. It is a matter of public record that one of their demands is the release of those terrorists who were legally convicted for the December 1983 bombings of Kuwaiti Government facilities and the American and French Embassies in Kuwait in which 5 persons were killed and over 80 injured.

We understand the concern expressed for Mr. Weir's safe return, and share the impatience, but believe we should not 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 or 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.

As you know, Secretary Shultz met with Mrs. Weir on March 22 to reassure her that the release of Mr. Weir and the other Americans was a top priority for the Administration. President Reagan takes a deep personal interest in this problem and is kept fully informed of developments. As he has said, we have not forgotten those who are being held.

Sincerely,

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

Robert M. Smalley  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Public Affairs

8514481

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

REFERRAL

MAY 10, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:  
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 314066

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MARCH 31, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MS. SHARON SWAIN  
21898 BETLEN WAY  
CASTRO VALLEY CA 94546

SUBJECT: REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN GETTING HER UNCLE  
REVEREND BEN WEIR RELEASED FROM BEING  
KIDNAPPED IN BEIRUT, 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

3-31-85

8514481

314066

Dear President Reagan,

RE: Hostage - Rev. Ben Weir

DOS  
Sally Kelley

My uncle, the Rev. Ben Weir, was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon nearly a year ago. He is a kind and wonderful man, who has served as a missionary in that area for 30 years. I last saw him at Christmas, 1983. His devotion to helping people led him back to war-torn Lebanon. I implore you, as President of the U.S.A., to use your power and influence to gain the release of my uncle and the other hostages. It is imperative that you act immediately. Please do whatever is necessary to effect the release of the hostages!

Please act now!

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Swain

SHARON E SWAIN  
21898 BETLEN WY  
CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546

[Faint, illegible text line]

[Faint, illegible text line]

JV

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.

315361

5300

C0086

JR 003-13

JR 003

RIM

FBI

PR003

-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

850520

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you regarding the information received from the source mentioned in your letter of the 10th instant. The information is being furnished to you for your information and for the information of the Bureau.

Very truly yours,  
Special Agent in Charge

NOT

ID# 316106

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CO086

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 12, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE HANK BROWN

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE  
TO HELP SECURE THE RELEASE OF PROFESSOR  
THOMAS SUTHERLAND WHO WAS KIDNAPPED IN BEIRUT

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY		ORG	85/06/12		
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

Handwritten initials and date: *JD 85/06/25* with a red stamp *AB*.

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 \_\_\_\_\_  
MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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*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	*
*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.

June 25, 1985

Dear Hank:

The President has asked that I respond to your letter of June 10 in which you expressed your concern regarding the kidnapping of Professor Thomas Sutherland and the continuing captivity of the U.S. citizens in Lebanon.

President Reagan is extremely concerned and has taken a deep personal interest in the terrorist attacks on Americans in Lebanon and the fate of the six Americans who were abducted in Beirut. The protection of American citizens overseas is a major responsibility of our government and the release of these innocent Americans is a priority concern.

I can assure you that the lack of success in gaining the release of these citizens 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 which offers even a remote possibility of contributing to the safe return of the missing Americans. Intense diplomatic contacts are continuing and we are pursuing all possible avenues of inquiry. We have said little publicly about our efforts on behalf of the captive Americans because we strongly believe that their release can best be accomplished through quiet, discreet diplomacy. Publicity simply increases the incentive of the captors to hold on to the hostages.

The President clearly appreciates what an ordeal this is for the families, whose anxiety and frustration we share. We realize that until Professor Sutherland and the other captives are released no explanation will seem adequate. Nevertheless, let me assure you that we will continue our intensive efforts on behalf of Professor Sutherland and the other captive Americans.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

M. B. Oglesby, Jr.  
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Hank Brown  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

MLF:MBG:STATE IN SC (KRS) JID:jid

#316106

HANK BROWN  
4TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET

JUDICIARY

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
(ON LEAVE)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

OFFICE ADDRESS:  
1510 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4678  
DISTRICT OFFICES:  
1015 37TH AVENUE COURT  
SUITE 101A  
GREELEY, CO 80634  
(303) 352-4112  
203 FEDERAL BUILDING  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80521  
(303) 493-9132  
243 POST OFFICE BUILDING  
LA JUNTA, CO 81050  
(303) 384-7370  
ROOM 9, 230 MAIN STREET  
BOX 767  
FORT MORGAN, CO 80701  
(303) 867-8909  
ADAMS AND ARAPAHOE COUNTY  
(303) 466-3443  
TRINIDAD  
(303) 846-6685

June 10, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

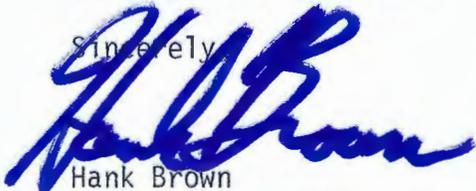
I am writing to urge you to do everything possible to help secure the release of my constituent, Professor Thomas Sutherland, who was kidnapped yesterday in Beirut, Lebanon.

Tom and I have been acquainted for several years and he is an exceptional individual. On leave from Colorado State University, where he is a professor of animal science, Tom left for Lebanon in 1983, where he is the dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut. Apparently he was kidnapped yesterday returning to the American University after having visited Colorado. Fortunately, his wife and children are safe in the United States.

Mr. President, I know the State Department has been in touch with the Sutherland family and is doing everything possible. My hope is that you will use the full range of diplomatic channels available to the United States to try and secure the release of Professor Sutherland and the other U.S. citizens held hostage in Lebanon.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Hank Brown  
Member of Congress

HB/k



*NASD*

ID# 316588

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

*00086*

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 21, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L. ARMSTRONG

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIENT TO USE PERSONAL  
INFLUENCE TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF REVEREND  
BENJAMIN WEIR

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY		ORG	85/06/21	<i>MLO</i>	<i>A85P625</i>
<i>ADDOS</i>	REFERRAL NOTE:				
<i>JA Ogle</i>	REFERRAL NOTE: <i>after will call</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>85/07/01</i>	<i>A85T08107</i>	<i>TR</i>
	REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>A</i>	<i>85/08/12</i>	<i>085 P813</i>	<i>AB</i>
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1220  
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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

S/S # 8519403

DATE August 9, 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 William L. Armstrong  
DATE: June 18, 1985 SUBJECT: Kidnapping of Benjamin Weir  
in Lebanon

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: July 1, 1985 NSC # 316588

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:

*for Tom Collins*  
Nicholas Platt  
Executive Secretary



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

AUG -7 1985

Dear Senator Armstrong:

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, but we did want to let you know that we very much appreciate your offer of assistance.

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.

The Honorable  
William L. Armstrong,  
United States Senate.

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,

  
William L. Hall, III  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

UNCLASSIFIED  
(CLASSIFICATION)

*Previously closed* CMD  
TO 316588  
C0086

S/S # 8519403

'85 \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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 William L. Armstrong  
DATE: June 18, 1985 SUBJECT: Kidnapping of Benjamin Weir  
in Lebanon

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: July 1, 1985 NSC # 316588

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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:

PA/PC/CMD:GDavis:sdl  
632-1393:8/2/85

S/S#8519403

LPC:NEA-7/85  
H:SBuck

Nicholas Platt  
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED  
(CLASSIFICATION)

8719403

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

REFERRAL

JULY 1, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ATTN: WILL BALL

ACTION REQUESTED:  
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 316588  
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUNE 18, 1985  
TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN  
FROM: THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L. ARMSTRONG  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON DC 20510

SUBJECT: WRITES TO "JOIN MANY, MANY OTHERS IN URGING  
YOU TO USE YOUR PERSONAL INFLUENCE TO OBTAIN  
RELEASE OF REVEREND BENJAMIN WEIR. I WOULD  
URGE THAT OBTAINING HIS FREEDOM BE CONSIDERED  
AMONG THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES OF THIS NATION.  
IF I CAN HELP IN ANY WAY TO OBTAIN HIS  
RELEASE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW."

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

June 25, 1985

Dear Senator Armstrong:

Thank you for your June 18 letter to the President, urging that he use his personal influence to secure the release of Reverend Benjamin Weir.

Your personal concern in this matter is appreciated, and your recommendation has been shared with the President's foreign policy advisers.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

M. B. Oglesby, Jr.  
Assistant to the President

The Honorable William L. Armstrong  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: w/copy of inc to Will Ball, Legis Affairs,  
Dept of State - for DIRECT response  
cc: w/copy of inc to NSC Secretariat - FYI ✓

WILLIAM L. ARMSTRONG  
COLORADO

# 316588

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 18, 1985

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

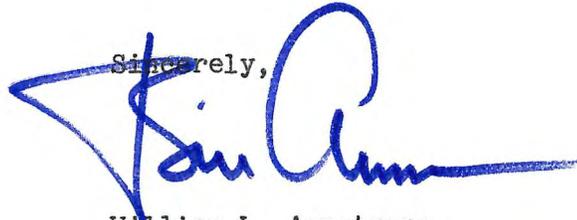
Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to to join many, many others in urging you to use your personal influence to obtain release of Reverend Benjamin Weir.

I would urge that obtaining his freedom be considered among the highest priorities of this nation. If I can help in any way to obtain his release, please let me know.

Best Regards,

Sincerely,



William L. Armstrong

WLA/bbl

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