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**Collection:** North, Oliver L.: Files, 1982-1986  
**Folder Title:** Hijacking of TWA #847 06/14/1985:  
Public Affairs/Media (1 of 4)  
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*Last Updated: 12/15/2023*

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** North, Oliver: Files

**Withdrawer**

RBW 2/25/2011

**File Folder** HIJACKING OF TWA #847 06/14/1985: PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS/MEDIA [1 OF 4]

**FOIA**

F97-046/4

**Box Number** 101

WILLS

31

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
105778	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/14/1985	B3
105779	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/14/1985	B3
105780	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/14/1985	B3
105781	CABLE	RE. LEBANON	1	6/14/1985	B3
105782	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	3	6/14/1985	B3
105783	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/14/1985	B3
105784	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS ON PLANE	1	6/14/1985	B3
105785	CABLE	RE. RESCUE OF HIJACKERS	1	6/14/1985	B3
105786	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/14/1985	B3

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105787	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/14/1985	B3
105788	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS [W/ANOTHER CABLE ON TWA HIJACKING]	2	6/14/1985	B3
105789	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/15/1985	B3
105790	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	2	6/15/1985	B3
105791	CABLE	RE. HIJACKER DEMANDS	1	6/16/1985	B3
105792	CABLE	RE. TWA 847	1	6/16/1985	B3
105793	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/16/1985	B3
105794	CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/16/1985	B3
105795	CABLE	RE. LEBANON	1	6/16/1985	B3

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105796	CABLE	RE. TWA 847	1	6/16/1985	B3
105797	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/16/1985	B3
105798	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/16/1985	B3
105799	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES RELEASE STATEMENT	1	6/16/1985	B3
105800	CABLE	RE. TWA #847	1	6/16/1985	B3
105801	CABLE	RE. LEBANON	1	6/17/1985	B3
105802	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/17/1985	B3
105803	CABLE	RE. AIR TRAFFIC	1	6/17/1985	B3
105804	CABLE	RE. ISRAEL	1	6/17/1985	B3

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RJ

# HONDURAS-CONTRAS

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS (AP) -- NICARAGUAN REBEL LEADERS SAID THURSDAY THEY WERE JUBILANT AND RELIEVED OVER THE U.S. HOUSE VOTE TO GIVE NON-LETHAL AID TO GROUPS FIGHTING THE LEFTIST SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT IN THEIR COUNTRY.

ROGER HERMANN, POLITICAL COORDINATOR OF THE INDIAN REBEL FORCE MISURA, CALLED WEDNESDAY'S VOTE "FANTASTIC."

"OUR SOLDIERS NEED HAMMOCKS, CLOTHES, RAIN PONCHOS AND MEDICINE. IT'S VERY HARD FOR US TO GET THESE THINGS," HE SAID FROM HIS BASE IN HONDURAS.

HE ADDED THAT MISURA SEIZES MANY WEAPONS FROM AMBUSHED NICARAGUAN SOLDIERS, BUT "WE CAPTURE VERY LITTLE MEDICINE." MISURA CLAIMS TO HAVE 5,000 FIGHTERS OPERATING ON NICARAGUA'S ATLANTIC COAST.

THE LEGISLATORS' "DISPLAY OF CONFIDENCE" IN THE REBEL CAUSE MAY PROMPT SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO SEND THE GUERRILLAS MILITARY AID, HERMANN SAID. HE DECLINED TO NAME THE COUNTRIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HONDURAS-BASED NICARAGUAN DEMOCRATIC FORCE SAID THE HOUSE HAD ACTED "IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER."

"WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR MILITARY AID," FRANK ARANA SAID. "BUT IF EVER WE NEED IT, WE HOPE TO GET THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS, BECAUSE NOW CONGRESS HAS REALIZED WE ARE FIGHTING A JUST STRUGGLE TO BRING PEACE AND DEMOCRACY TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO EXPEL FROM CENTRAL AMERICA THE CANCER OF COMMUNISM THAT IS THREATENING ALL THE REGION THROUGH THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT."

THE HOUSE VOTED 248-184 TO GIVE \$27 MILLION IN AID TO THE REBELS, KNOWN AS CONTRAS. LAST WEEK THE SENATE VOTED TO SEND \$38 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE, AND THE TWO VERSIONS MUST BE RECONCILED BEFORE ANY MONEY IS SENT.

IN COSTA RICA, A LEADER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, WHICH ALSO IS BATTLING THE SANDINISTAS, SAID HE HOPED THE AID WOULD ALLOW THE REBELS TO HELP CIVILIANS DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES BY THE FIGHTING.

"WE HAVE 100,000 DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE 35,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS (14,000 SQUARE MILES) IN WHICH OUR FORCES MOVE, WHO ARE LIVING IN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AS THEY LACK CLOTHES, SHOES, MEDICINES AND FOOD," JOSE DAVILA MENDRENO SAID.

AP-MX-05-13-85 1842EDT

R1

## NICARAGUA-REACTION

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA (AP) -- APPROVAL BY THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-LETHAL AID TO ANTI-SANDINISTA REBELS "IS AN ENDORSEMENT SO REAGAN CAN CONTINUE ATTACKING NICARAGUA," THE GOVERNMENT RADIO SAID THURSDAY.

A TELEPHONE CALLER TO THE STATION, THE VOICE OF NICARAGUA, URGED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO "KEEP WEAPONS IN THEIR OFFICES TO REPEL AGGRESSION."

BARRICADE, THE OFFICIAL SANDINISTA NEWSPAPER, SAID THE HOUSE "VOTED FOR DEATH." IT ECHOED THE COMMENTS OF MIGUEL D'ESCOTO, FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE LEFTIST NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT, WHO SAID WEDNESDAY THAT THE HOUSE ACTION WAS A "VOTE IN FAVOR OF DEATH, DESTRUCTION, AND SUFFERING."

D'ESCOTO TOLD REPORTERS AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK THAT IT INDICATED THE HOUSE WANTS THE UNITED STATES TO BE A COUNTRY "FAVORING LAWLESSNESS AND THE PRINCIPLE THAT MIGHT MAKES RIGHT."

THE AID AUTHORIZATION "GREATLY HINDERS THE POSSIBILITY FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND ENCOURAGES THOSE WHO ARE INTENT ON A MILITANT SOLUTION," HE SAID.

HOUSE MEMBERS APPROVED \$27 MILLION IN NON-LETHAL AID TO THE REBELS, KNOWN AS CONTRAS, IN A 248-184 VOTE WEDNESDAY. IT WAS A MAJOR VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN, WHO CALLS THE NICARAGUAN REBELS FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

THE SENATE ENDORSED A \$38 MILLION AID PACKAGE LAST WEEK.

NICARAGUAN GUERRILLA LEADERS THURSDAY PRAISED THE VOTE.

ROGER HERMANN, POLITICAL COORDINATOR OF THE INDIAN REBEL FORCE MISURA, CALLED IT "FANTASTIC."

"OUR SOLDIERS NEED HANNOCKS, CLOTHES, RAIN PONCHOS AND MEDICINE. IT'S VERY HARD FOR US TO GET THESE THINGS," HE SAID FROM HIS BASE IN HONDURAS.

MISURA SEIZES WEAPONS FROM AMBUSHED NICARAGUAN SOLDIERS, BUT "WE CAPTURE VERY LITTLE MEDICINE," HERMANN SAID. MISURA CLAIMS 5,000 FIGHTERS OPERATING ON NICARAGUA'S ATLANTIC COAST.

IN COSTA RICA, JOSE DAVILA MEMBRENO OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, SAID HE HOPED THE AID WOULD ENABLE THE REBELS TO HELP CIVILIANS DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES BY THE FIGHTING.

AND FRANK ARANA, OF THE NICARAGUAN DEMOCRATIC FORCE, SAID THE HOUSE HAD ACTED "IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER."

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HONDURAS-BASED NICARAGUAN DEMOCRATIC FORCE SAID WEDNESDAY THAT U.S. AID SHOULD ALLOW THAT REBEL GROUP TO MAKE A MAJOR MOVE AGAINST THE SANDINISTAS IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCE AND OF THE COSTA RICA-BASED REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE SAID WEDNESDAY IN EL SALVADOR THAT THEY WERE JOINING FORCES. THEY MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE HOUSE VOTE.

THE MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF NICARAGUA, MANUEL ESPINOZA, TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING AN IN-DEPTH OFFICIAL REACTION BECAUSE OF "THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION."

AP-WX-06-13-85 1824EDT

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105780 CABLE		1	6/14/1985	B3
	RE. HIJACKERS			

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AP-URGENT

HIJACK (TOPS)

(BEIRUT, LEBANON) -- HIJACKERS ARMED WITH MACHINE GUNS AND GRENADES FORCED A ROME-BOUND T-W-A JETLINER DOWN AT BEIRUT AIRPORT TODAY.

BEIRUT CONTROL TOWER SAYS THE PILOT REPORTED ON LANDING THAT ONE GUNMAN HAD PULLED THE PIN OFF A GRENADE AND THE OTHERS WERE BEATING PASSENGERS.

T-W-A OFFICIALS IN ROME SAY MOST OF THE 145 (NEW FIGURE) PASSENGERS AND EIGHT CREW MEMBERS ARE REPORTED TO BE AMERICANS.

AP-WX-06-14-85 0517EDT

ROME, WHICH NORMALLY CARRIES PASSENGERS CONNECTING WITH A FLIGHT FROM ROME TO BOSTON AND LOS ANGELES.

EYEWITNESSES HERE SAID THE PLANE WAITED 10 MINUTES NEAR THE JORDANIAN PLANE WRECKAGE AT THE END OF A RUNWAY AND THEN ROLLED TOWARDS A FUELING STATION NEARER THE TERMINAL AND BEGAN REFUELING.

A HIJACKER, WHO APPEARED TO BE LEBANESE, TOLD THE CONTROL TOWER HE WOULD BLOW UP THE PLANE IF IT WAS NOT REFUELED.

IN A RECORDED CONVERSATION BROADCAST BY A LOCAL RADIO, THE MAN SAID IN ARABIC: "THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO REFUEL THE PLANE OR WE WILL BLOW IT UP."

THE MAN SOUNDED HIGHLY AGITATED AND APPEARED TO HAVE A SOUTH LEBANESE ACCENT. HIS THREAT SEEMED TO INDICATE HE WAS NOT ALONE, BUT THE IDENTITY AND NUMBER OF THE HIJACKERS COULD NOT IMMEDIATELY BE CONFIRMED.

CHRISTIAN "VOICE OF LEBANON" RADIO SAID AN ANONYMOUS CALLER TOLD IT THREE MEN WITH RIFLES AND HAND GRENADES, APPARENTLY SHI'ITE MOSLEMS, WERE RESPONSIBLE.

BUT AIRPORT OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVED A SINGLE LEBANESE MAN WAS INVOLVED.

RADIO MONITORS HERE LISTENING TO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE PLANE AND THE AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER SAID THEY HEARD A HIJACKER THREATEN TO KILL PASSENGERS IF UNAUTHORIZED PEOPLE APPROACHED THE AIRCRAFT.

"LET NO ONE APPROACH THE PLANE. OTHERWISE, WE SHALL BEGIN TO KILL THE PASSENGERS," THEY QUOTED THE HIJACKER AS SAYING.

HE WAS ASSURED THAT ONLY REFUELING TEAMS WOULD APPROACH.

THE REASON FOR THE HIJACKING WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN.

THE JORDANIAN PLANE DESTROYED ON WEDNESDAY WAS SEIZED BY FIVE LEBANESE SHI'ITES TO DRAMATIZE PROTESTS AGAINST ARAB LEAGUE CRITICISM OF A BLOODY SHI'ITE SIEGE OF BEIRUT'S PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS.

ABOUT 600 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND 2,500 WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE OF THE CAMPS, AND ANGER HAS RISEN AMONG AMONG LEBANESE SHI'ITES AT LOCAL AND ARAB CRITICISM OF THEIR ACTIONS.

SHORTLY AFTER THE JORDANIAN PLANE WAS BLOWN UP A MAN REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN A PALESTINIAN SEIZED A LEBANESE AIRLINER APPROACHING LARNACA AIRPORT IN CYPRUS BUT LATER GAVE HIMSELF UP.

NO ONE WAS HURT IN EITHER OF THE TWO HIJACKINGS.

THE HIJACKED TWA PLANE WAS BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST AMERICAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER TO LAND IN BEIRUT SINCE SOON AFTER THE START OF LEBANON'S CIVIL WAR 10 YEARS AGO.

AMERICAN AIRLINES STOPPED FLIGHTS TO BEIRUT SHORTLY AFTER FIGHTING BEGAN IN 1975.

GREEK POP SINGER DENIS ROUSSOS WAS AMONG THE PLANE'S PASSENGERS ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS OF HIS RECORD COMPANY IN ROME.

THEY SAID ROUSSOS, 40 TODAY, HAD BEEN DUE TO APPEAR TONIGHT AT A POP MUSIC FESTIVAL IN SIENA IN NORTHWEST ITALY.

REUTER 0736

R078R 11111)LCZCZSARYR

BC-HIJACK

U.S. PLANE HIJACKERS FREE 20 IN BEIRUT AND HEAD FOR ALGIERS  
BY ANDREW TARNOWSKI

BEIRUT, JUNE 14, REUTER - A HIJACKED AMERICAN AIRLINER LEFT BEIRUT FOR ALGIERS TODAY AFTER GUNMEN RELEASED ABOUT 20 WOMEN AND CHILDREN AMONG THE 153 PEOPLE BELIEVED ON BOARD, OFFICIALS AT THE AIRPORT SAID.

THE TRANS WORLD AIRWAYS (TWA) BOEING 727, SEIZED ON A FLIGHT FROM ATHENS TO ROME IN THE THIRD MIDDLE EAST HIJACK THIS WEEK, LEFT AFTER A 90-MINUTE EMERGENCY REFUELING STOP HERE ON WHICH THE HIJACKERS FREED THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON BOARD AND ISSUED A STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN.

READ BY A GUNMAN SPEAKING ARABIC WITH A SOUTH LEBANESE ACCENT, IT ATTACKED ARAB STATES, CALLED FOR THE LIBERATION OF JERUSALEM FROM ISRAEL AND MADE FIVE DEMANDS:

- THE RELEASE OF ALL LEBANESE SHI'ITE MOSLEM PRISONERS HELD IN ISRAEL AND THEIR RETURN TO THE SOUTHERN CITY OF SIDON.

- INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON.

- SIMILAR CONDEMNATION OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

- CONDEMNATION OF A MARCH & CAR BOMBING IN A SHI'ITE SUBURB OF BEIRUT THAT KILLED ABOUT 80 PEOPLE, FOR WHICH AMERICAN RESPONSIBILITY HAS BEEN ALLEGED IN LEBANON.

- AN END TO FIGHTING BETWEEN LEBANESE MOSLEMS. BLOODY BATTLES HAVE RAGED FOR NEARLY FOUR WEEKS BETWEEN SHI'ITES AND PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT AND THE SHI'ITES ALSO CLASHED THIS WEEK WITH DRUZE MILITIAMEN.

THE PLANE TOOK OFF AT 1:25 P.M. (6:25 A.M. EDT) AFTER LANDING AT ITS THIRD ATTEMPT 90 MINUTES EARLIER. IT HAD TWICE BEEN REFUSED LANDING PERMISSION BY LEBANESE AUTHORITIES WHO ORDERED OBSTACLES TO BE PLACED ON THE RUNWAY.

HOWEVER, TRANSPORT MINISTER WALID JUMBLATT LATER GAVE EMERGENCY LANDING PERMISSION ON CONDITION THE PLANE WOULD REFUEL QUICKLY AND LEAVE.

IT CAME DOWN NOT FAR FROM THE GUTTED WRECKAGE OF A JORDANIAN AIRLINER SEIZED BY SHI'ITE MOSLEM GUNMEN AT BEIRUT AIRPORT ON TUESDAY AND BLOWN UP AND BURNED BY THEM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

IN ATHENS, GREEK POLICE SOURCES SAID THE PLANE WAS SEIZED WITHIN MINUTES OF TAKE-OFF, WHEN A MAN OF ARAB APPEARANCE APPROACHED THE PILOT AND THREATENED TO BLOW UP THE PLANE.

THE SOURCES SAID 14 PASSENGERS WERE GREEK BUT THEY HAD NO INFORMATION ON NATIONALITIES OF THE OTHERS ON BOARD.

ATHENS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS SAID THE PLANE WAS CARRYING 145 PASSENGERS AND EIGHT CREW.

TWA IN NEW YORK SAID THE PLANE WAS FLIGHT 847 FROM ATHENS TO

.....  
R057U 11111)LCZCWDZSA

PM-PLANE 2NDLD \*\*\*URGENT

HIJACKED PLANE LANDS AT BEIRUT

BEIRUT, JUNE 14 - A HIJACKED TRANS WORLD AIRLINES AIRLINER LANDED TODAY AT BEIRUT AFTER GETTING EMERGENCY PERMISSION FROM LEBANESE AUTHORITIES, AIRPORT OFFICIALS SAID.

THE TWA PLANE WAS DIVERTED HERE AFTER TAKING OFF FROM ATHENS ON A SCHEDULED MORNING FLIGHT TO ROME.

THE OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS TWICE REFUSED LANDING PERMISSION, BUT TRANSPORT MINISTER WALID JUNBLATT LATER SAID IT COULD LAND FOR A REFUELING STOP ONLY.

THE PLANE WAS SEIZED AFTER TAKE OFF FROM ATHENS. TWA IN NEW YORK SAID THE PLANE WAS A BOEING 727, FLIGHT 847 FROM ATHENS TO ROME.

STATE-OWNED BEIRUT RADIO SAID OBSTACLES WERE PUT ON THE RUNWAY HERE TO PREVENT IT LANDING ALTHOUGH THE PILOT HAD TWICE ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO PUT DOWN.

THE CHRISTIAN \*\*\*VOICE OF LEBANON\*\* RADIO IN BEIRUT REPORTED AN ANONYMOUS CALLER SAID THE HIJACKERS WERE THREE ARMED MEN FROM THE \*\*\*HUSSEIN SUICIDE BRIGADES - ABU ARAB UNIT.\*\*.

HE SAID THEY WERE CARRYING THREE AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND FIVE HAND GRENADES.

AN AIRLINER FLEW LOW OVER BEIRUT AT 11:35 A.M. (LOCAL TIME) ON AN APPROACH RUN TOWARDS THE AIRPORT, BUT IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN IF IT WAS THE HIJACKED PLANE.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS AT ATHENS SAID THE PLANE HAD 153 PEOPLE ON BOARD AND WAS SEIZED AT 10:04 A.M. (LOCAL TIME).

THE TWA SPOKESWOMAN IN NEW YORK TOLD REUTERS THE ATHENS TO ROME FLIGHT NORMALLY CARRIES PASSENGERS CONNECTING IN ROME WITH A BOEING 747 FLIGHT TO BOSTON AND LOS ANGELES.

REUTER 0518

R058R 11111)LCZCWDZRYR

PM-VIOLENCE

TWO BLACKS DIE IN OVERNIGHT TOWNSHIP VIOLENCE

JOHANNESBURG, JUNE 14. REUTER - A BLACK MAN AND A TEENAGER



R059R 11111)LCZCWDIYC

PM-PLANE 3RDL (WRITETHROUGH)

HIJACKED TRANS WORLD AIRLINES JET LANDS AT BEIRUT  
(EDS: RECASTS THROUGHOUT AND ADDS INFO ON HIJACKERS)

BEIRUT, JUNE 14, REUTER - A TRANS WORLD AIRLINES AIRLINER  
CARRYING 153 PEOPLE WAS HIJACKED AFTER IT LEFT ATHENS TODAY AND  
LANDED AT BEIRUT AFTER GETTING EMERGENCY PERMISSION FROM  
LEBANESE AUTHORITIES, AIRPORT OFFICIALS SAID.

THE TWA PLANE, BOEING 727, WAS DIVERTED HERE AFTER TAKING OFF  
FROM ATHENS ON A SCHEDULED MORNING FLIGHT TO ROME.

THE OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS TWICE REFUSED LANDING PERMISSION,  
BUT TRANSPORT MINISTER WALID JUNBLATT LATER SAID IT COULD LAND  
FOR A REFUELING STOP ONLY.

THE PLANE WAS SEIZED AFTER TAKE-OFF FROM ATHENS. TWA IN NEW  
YORK SAID THE PLANE WAS FLIGHT 847 FROM ATHENS TO ROME, WHICH  
NORMALLY CARRIES PASSENGERS CONNECTING WITH A FLIGHT FROM ROME  
TO BOSTON AND LOS ANGELES.

STATE-OWNED BEIRUT RADIO SAID OBSTACLES WERE PUT ON THE RUNWAY  
HERE TO PREVENT IT LANDING ALTHOUGH THE PILOT HAD TWICE ASKED  
FOR PERMISSION TO PUT DOWN.

THE CHRISTIAN "VOICE OF LEBANON" RADIO IN BEIRUT REPORTED AN  
ANONYMOUS CALLER SAID THE HIJACKERS WERE THREE ARMED MEN FROM  
THE "HUSSEIN SUICIDE BRIGADES - ABU ARAB UNIT."

HE SAID THEY WERE CARRYING THREE AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND FIVE  
HAND GRENADES.

THE NAME HUSSEIN USED BY TODAY'S HIJACKERS SUGGESTED THEY  
COULD BE SHI'ITE MUSLEMS, BUT THERE WAS NO CONFIRMATION HERE OF  
THEIR IDENTITY.

HUSSEIN WAS THE MARTYRED SON OF ALI, SON-IN-LAW OF MOHAMMED,  
WHOM SHI'ITES CONSIDER THE PROPHET'S RIGHTFUL HEIR.

AN AIRLINER FLEW LOW OVER BEIRUT AT 11:35 A.M. (LOCAL TIME)  
ON AN APPROACH RUN TOWARDS THE AIRPORT, BUT IT WAS NOT  
IMMEDIATELY KNOWN IF IT WAS THE HIJACKED PLANE.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS AT ATHENS SAID THE PLANE HAD 153  
PEOPLE ON BOARD AND WAS SEIZED AT 10:04 A.M. (LOCAL TIME).

TODAY'S INCIDENT WAS THE THIRD MIDDLE EAST HIJACKING WITHIN  
FOUR DAYS. A JORDANIAN AIRLINER, SEIZED ON TUESDAY, WAS PARTLY  
BLOWN UP 28 HOURS LATER BY HIJACKERS AT BEIRUT AIRPORT AND A  
LEBANESE AIRLINER WAS BRIEFLY SEIZED AS IT APPROACHED LARNACA  
AIRPORT IN CYPRUS ON WEDNESDAY.

REUTER 0527

UP194

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PM-HIJACK 1STLD-WRITETHRU 6-14

URGENT

(COMPLETE WRITETHRU -- PLANE LANDS; HIJACKERS THREATEN TO KILL PASSENGERS)

BY DAVID ZENIAN

BEIRUT, LEBANON (UPI) -- HIJACKERS SEIZED A TRANS WORLD AIRLINES JETLINER TODAY WITH MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE ABOARD ON A GREECE-TO-ITALY FLIGHT AND FORCED IT TO LAND AT BEIRUT AIRPORT, WHERE THEY THREATENED TO KILL EVERYONE ABOARD.

SOURCES IN THE CONTROL TOWER AT BEIRUT AIRPORT SAID TWA'S FLIGHT 847 LANDED THERE AT 11:57 A.M. (4:57 A.M. EDT) IN THE THIRD HIJACKING INCIDENT THIS WEEK INVOLVING THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

IN ISRAEL, AN INTERNATIONAL RADIO MONITOR SAID HE OVERHEARD THE PILOT SAYING ONE HIJACKER HAD PULLED THE PIN ON A HAND GRENADE AND WAS THREATENING TO BLOW UP THE AIRCRAFT.

"DO NOT APPROACH THE PLANE," A CONTROL TOWER OFFICIAL QUOTED ONE OF THE SUSPECTED SHIITE MOSLEM HIJACKERS AS SAYING. "PLEASE ARRANGE FOR FUEL IMMEDIATELY. OTHERWISE, WE WILL START KILLING THE PASSENGERS."

THE TOWER SOURCES SAID THE PLANE WAS BELIEVED TO BE CARRYING MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE. IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN WHERE THE SKY PIRATES, ARMED WITH HAND GRENADES AND SUBMACHINE GUNS, WANTED TO GO.

IN A SECOND RADIO TRANSMISSION WITH THE CONTROL TOWER, THE HIJACKERS THREATENED TO START KILLING THEIR PASSENGERS WITHIN THREE MINUTES. THE DEADLINE PASSED WITH NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON THE FATE OF THE HOSTAGES.

THE CONTROL TOWER SOURCES SAID THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AT FIRST ORDERED THE AIRPORT CLOSED TO PREVENT THE AIRCRAFT FROM LANDING, BUT APPARENTLY ALLOWED IT TO LAND IN HOPES OF ENDING THE HIJACKING.

AN ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALLER TOLD A PRIVATE BEIRUT RADIO STATION THE PLANE BOUND FROM ATHENS, GREECE, TO ROME WAS HIJACKED BY MEMBERS OF THE "MUSSEIN SUICIDE BRIGADE" -- A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN BUT SUSPECTED SHIITE MOSLEM GROUP.

THE CALLER TOLD THE RADIO STATION HIS COMRADES WERE ARMED WITH THREE SOVIET-MADE AK-47 SUBMACHINE GUNS AND FIVE HAND GRENADES.

THE FIRST HIJACKING ENDED WEDNESDAY AFTER 30 HOURS WHEN FIVE SHIITE MOSLEMS WHO SEIZED A JORDANIAN AIRLINER FREED 67 HOSTAGES AT BEIRUT AIRPORT, BLEW UP THE JET AND THEN FLED INTO SHIITE SUBURBS NEAR THE AIRPORT.

TWO U.S. HOSTAGES ABOARD THAT AIRLINER -- AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT ADMINISTRATOR LANDREY SLADE AND HIS SON -- PROMPTLY BOARDED A MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES FLIGHT TO LARNACA, CYPRUS. THAT PLANE WAS HIJACKED FIVE MINUTES AFTER IT TOOK OFF BY A MAN ARMED WITH A HAND

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105781	CABLE  RE. LEBANON	1	6/14/1985	B3

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R157U 11111) LZOTWYDZSA

AM-HIJACK-DEPARTURE \*\*\*URGENT

HIJACKED U.S. AIRLINER LEAVES ALGIERS

PARIS, JUNE 14, REUTER - A HIJACKED TWA AIRLINER TONIGHT LEFT ALGIERS AIRPORT FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION, THE ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY APS SAID.

A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE DEPARTURE, ABOUT 20 PASSENGERS WERE RELEASED, SAID THE AGENCY, MONITORED HERE.

EARLIER TODAY, THE JET, WHICH WAS COMMANDEERED BY ARMED ARABS OVER ATHENS, STOPPED IN BEIRUT, WHERE THE HIJACKERS RELEASED A LIST OF DEMANDS AND FREED 17 AMERICAN WOMEN AND TWO CHILDREN.

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105782	CABLE  RE. HIJACKERS	3	6/14/1985	B3

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105783	CABLE	1	6/14/1985	B3
	RE. HOSTAGES			

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105784	CABLE  RE. HIJACKERS ON PLANE	1	6/14/1985	B3

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105785	CABLE  RE. RESCUE OF HIJACKERS	1	6/14/1985	B3

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105786	CABLE  RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/14/1985	B3

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105787 CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/14/1985	B3

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105788 CABLE	RE. HIJACKERS [W/ANOTHER CABLE ON TWA HIJACKING]	2	6/14/1985	B3

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R146U 11111)LZQTUJVCYN

AM-LEBANON-FINNS ""URGENT

ISRAEL SAYS SLA RELEASING 21 FINNS TOMORROW

JERUSALEM, JUNE 14, REUTER - THE ISRAELI ARMY ANNOUNCED  
TONIGHT THAT THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY (SLA) MILITIA WILL RELEASE  
TOMORROW THE 21 FINNISH UNITED NATIONS TROOPS IT HAS HELD  
CAPTIVE FOR THE PAST WEEK.

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105789	CABLE  RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/15/1985	B3

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105790	CABLE  RE. HIJACKERS	2	6/15/1985	B3

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105791	CABLE  RE. HIJACKER DEMANDS	1	6/16/1985	B3

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105792	CABLE  RE. TWA 847	1	6/16/1985	B3

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105793	CABLE  RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/16/1985	B3

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105794	CABLE  RE. HIJACKERS	1	6/16/1985	B3

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

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105795	CABLE  RE. LEBANON	1	6/16/1985	B3

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105796 CABLE		1	6/16/1985	B3
	RE. TWA 847			

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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105797 CABLE		1	6/16/1985	B3
	RE. HOSTAGES			

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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105798	CABLE  RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/16/1985	B3

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105799	CABLE  RE. HOSTAGES RELEASE STATEMENT	1	6/16/1985	B3

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105800 CABLE	RE. TWA #847	1	6/16/1985	B3

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R009R 11111)LC2CCZC1YC

BC-HIJACK-IRAN

IRAN DENIES ANY INVOLVEMENT IN HIJACKING

LONDON, JUNE 16, REUTER - IRAN HAS DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE HIJACKING OF THE TWA AIRLINER, NOW AT ALGIERS AIRPORT, THE OFFICIAL IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY IRNA REPORTED TODAY.

THE AGENCY, MONITORED IN LONDON, QUOTED A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN IN TEHRAN WHO ISSUED THE DENIAL LAST NIGHT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID U.S. OFFICIALS QUOTED IN WESTERN MEDIA REPORTS HAD BLAMED THE HIJACKING ON IRAN AND RENEWED "THEIR THREATS TO ATTACK CERTAIN PLACES IN IRAN."

HE SAID IRAN WOULD REPLY TO ITS ENEMIES ON THE WAR FRONT "AND DOES NOT NEED TO RESORT TO SUCH A MEANS."

TEHRAN SAID YESTERDAY THE HIJACKED AIRLINER WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LAND IN IRAN.

REUTER 0235

R023R 11111)LCZCBLZYR

BC-HIJACK-ISRAEL 1STLD (WRITETHROUGH) (PREVIOUS TEL AVIV)

ISRAEL SAYS U.S. HAS NOT ASKED FOR RELEASE OF SHI"ITES

(EDS: UPDATES WITH MINISTRY'S COMMENTS)

JERUSALEM, JUNE 16, REUTER - THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT ASKED ISRAEL TO RELEASE ABOUT 700 LEBANESE SHI"ITE PRISONERS WHOSE FREEDOM WAS DEMANDED BY THE HIJACKERS OF AN AMERICAN AIRLINER, A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

U.S. AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT OVER THE HIJACKING, IN WHICH SOME 40 AMERICAN PASSENGERS AND CREW WERE BEING HELD HOSTAGE ABOARD A TWA PLANE, HE SAID.

"THERE HAS BEEN NO U.S. REQUEST FOR US TO RELEASE SHI"ITES," THE SPOKESMAN TOLD REUTERS. HE SAID ISRAEL HAD BEEN PLANNING TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS, THE LAST OF 1,200 SUSPECTED SHI"ITE GUERRILLAS CAPTURED IN LEBANON AND TRANSFERRED FROM ANSAR CAMP TO AN ISRAELI JAIL IN APRIL. BUT THE SPOKESMAN GAVE NO INDICATION ISRAEL WOULD NOW TO THE HIJACKERS' DEMAND THAT THE SHI"ITES BE FREED NOW IN EXCHANGE FOR THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES.

"ISRAEL'S POSITION AND THAT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS BEEN NOT TO GIVE IN TO TERRORISM," HE SAID.

EARLIER, ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES TOLD ISRAELI STATE RADIO HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MAKING A SERIOUS MISTAKE IF IT GAVE IN TO THE HIJACKERS' DEMANDS.

TO RELEASE THE SHIITE PRISONERS "UNDER A THREAT BY TERRORISTS (DEMANDING) WE MUST DO IT, WOULD BE, IN MY EYES, A SERIOUS MISTAKE," SAID AMBASSADOR BENYAMIN NETANYAHU.

HE SAID ISRAEL SHOULD NOT VIEW ITS CONTROVERSIAL EXCHANGE OF LAST MONTH OF 1,150 ARAB GUERRILLAS FOR THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN LEBANON AS A PRECEDENT FOR RELEASING THE SHI"ITES THIS TIME.

"ANY SURRENDER INVITES...FURTHER TERROR AND MOUNTING BLACKMAIL," NETANYAHU SAID.

REUTER 0606

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105801 CABLE	RE. LEBANON	1	6/17/1985	B3

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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105802	CABLE  RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/17/1985	B3

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105803	CABLE  RE. AIR TRAFFIC	1	6/17/1985	B3

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R029R 11111)LCZCXYLIYC

PM-HIJACK 1STLD (WRITETHROUGH)

TOP U.S. OFFICIAL CALLS SHI"ITE LEADER ON HIJACK CRISIS  
(EDS: UPDATES WITH MCFARLANE CONTACT)

BY ANDREW TARNOWSKI

BEIRUT, JUNE 17, REUTER - U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER ROBERT MCFARLANE TODAY TELEPHONED LEBANON'S SHI"ITE MOSLEM LEADER NABIH BERRI TO DISCUSS THE FATE OF AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE HERE ON A HIJACKED PLANE, A SOURCE AT BERRI'S HOME SAID.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME AN OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON HAD CONTACTED BERRI SINCE HE BEGAN NEGOTIATING LAST NIGHT ON BEHALF OF THE HIJACKERS WITH THREE WEST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIALS OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.

THE SOURCE AT BERRI'S HOME SAID THE TWO MEN DISCUSSED THE HIJACKING AND THE HOSTAGES. HE GAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS BUT APPEARED TO BE PLEASED MCFARLANE HAD CALLED THE SHI"ITE LEADER.

THE HIJACKERS, BELIEVED TO BE SHI"ITE GUNMEN, DEMAND THAT ISRAEL FREE ABOUT 700 LEBANESE PRISONERS AND THAT SPAIN SHOULD FREE TWO MEN HELD IN MADRID, IN RETURN FOR THE RELEASE OF ABOUT 40 HOSTAGES ON THE TWA PLANE.

BERRI, LEADER OF THE SHI"ITE MILITIA AMAL WHICH CONTROLS BEIRUT AIRPORT, SAID YESTERDAY THE HIJACKERS HAD PLEDGED NOT TO HARM THEIR CAPTIVES WHILE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE.

BERRI LAST NIGHT APPEALED TO FRENCH, BRITISH AND SPANISH DIPLOMATS TO INTERCEDE WITH ISRAEL TO FREE THE LEBANESE PRISONERS HELD IN ISRAELI JAILS.

THE SOURCE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACTS SINCE MIDNIGHT (5 P.M. EDT) AND THE DIPLOMATS HAD NOT REPLIED TO THE APPEAL.

HOWEVER, A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN IN MADRID SAID SPAIN WOULD NOT RELEASE THE TWO MEN IT HOLDS FOR AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON A LIBYAN DIPLOMAT LAST SEPTEMBER.

BEIRUT AIRPORT, WHERE AMAL FIGHTERS MAINTAINED AN OVERNIGHT MAXIMUM ALERT AGAINST ANY AMERICAN OR ISRAELI COMMANDO STRIKE TO FREE THE HOSTAGES, WAS CALM TODAY.

A FEW AMAL FIGHTERS LOUNGED NEAR THE PLANE, WHICH RAN ITS ENGINES TO MAINTAIN AIR CONDITIONING INSIDE. THE HIJACKERS REQUESTED WATER, NEWSPAPERS, TOILET PAPER AND 120 SANDWICHES AND ASKED FOR CLEANERS TO GO ON BOARD, AIRPORT OFFICIALS SAID.

THE ANAL AIRPORT COMMANDER ALSO WENT ON BOARD AT THE HIJACKERS' REQUEST, BUT NO FURTHER DEMANDS WERE RADIOED TO THE CONTROL TOWER WHERE THREE ANAL FIGHTERS WAITED WITH OFFICIALS.

"EVERYTHING SEEMS FROZEN," SAID AN OFFICIAL OF THE LACK OF ACTIVITY, AS A HIJACKER IN A WHITE SUN HAT OCCASIONALLY PEERED FROM THE PLANE'S COCKPIT OR STROLLED ON THE TARMAC.

THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF THE FATE OF SEVERAL AMERICAN PASSENGERS WITH "JEWISH SOUNDING NAMES" WHO WERE TAKEN FROM THE PLANE UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS SATURDAY.

ULI DERICKSON, A TWA FLIGHT ATTENDANT WHO WAS FREED IN ALGIERS AND RETURNED TO NEW YORK YESTERDAY, SAID THE GUNMEN HAD ORDERED HER TO GATHER PASSPORTS AND POINT OUT THOSE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN JEWISH. SHE SAID SHE TURNED IN ALL OF THE PASSPORTS; THE GUNMEN MADE THE SELECTION AND SIX TO EIGHT PASSENGERS WERE TAKEN FROM THE PLANE.

DERICKSON SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE MAN WHO WAS KILLED, ANOTHER AMERICAN, WHO HAD DONE CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE U.S. NAVY IN GREECE, HAD BEEN BRUTALLY BEATEN BY THE HIJACKERS AND WAS IN "VERY BAD SHAPE" WHEN SHE LEFT THE PLANE.

SHE SAID THE JET'S PILOT WAS SHOWING SIGNS OF FATIGUE AND ITS FLIGHT ENGINEER HAD BEEN BEATEN WITH A GUN.

PRESIDENT REAGAN, WHO INTERRUPTED A WEEKEND RETREAT AND HURRIED BACK TO WASHINGTON FOR TALKS ON THE CRISIS, SAID THE HIJACKERS SHOULD RELEASE THE HOSTAGES OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.

"THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES IN WHICH HIJACKERS HAVE FOUND THAT ACTION IS TAKEN THAT RESULTED IN THEIR DEATH OR CAPTURE," HE TOLD REPORTERS.

REUTER 0451

IF THE HIJACKERS WERE TO BE RELEASED, IT WOULD BE A MAJOR  
SINCE THE NEXT OF KIN WOULD BE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD  
HAVE TO PAY A RANSOM. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT  
WANT TO PAY A RANSOM, BUT IT WOULD BE FORCED TO IF THE  
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105804 CABLE	RE. ISRAEL	1	6/17/1985	B3

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