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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 [2 OF 4]

FOIA

F97-046/4

Box Number 101

WILLS

32

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
105808	MEMO	TO CINNAMON RE. NEWS MEDIA AND TERRORISTS	2	6/18/1985	B1
105809	PAPER	RE. TWA HIJACKERS	2	ND	B1
105811	CABLE	RE. SRI LANKA	1	6/18/1985	B3
105812	WASHFAX	RE. PRESS	1	6/19/1985	B3
105813	CABLE	RE. LEBANON [W/CABLE ON AIRPORT]	2	6/20/1985	B3
105814	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/20/1985	B3
105815	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/20/1985	B3
105816	CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/20/1985	B3

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

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(Elliott/North)
June 18, 1985
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NEWS CONFERENCE OPENING STATEMENT
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1985

Good evening. One hour ago, the body of a young American hero, Navy diver Robert Dean Stethem, was returned to his native soil in a coffin, after being beaten and shot at pointblank range.

His murder and the fate of the other American hostages still being held in Beirut underscore an inescapable fact: the United States is tonight a Nation being attacked by international terrorists who wantonly kill and who seize our innocent citizens as their prisoners. In response to this situation, I am directing that the following steps be taken:

-- I have directed the Secretary of Transportation, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, to explore immediately an expansion of our armed sky marshal program aboard international flights of U.S. air carriers for better protection of passengers.

-- I am directing the Secretary of State to issue an immediate travel advisory for U.S. citizens travelling through the Athens International Airport warning them of dangers. This warning shall remain in effect until the Greek government has improved the security situation there, and until it has demonstrated a willingness to comply with the security provisions of the U.S.-Greek Civil Aviation Agreement and the Tokyo, Montreal, and Hague Conventions regarding prosecution and

punishment of air pirates. I have asked for a full explanation of the events surrounding the takeover of the aircraft in Athens.

-- I have appealed through the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration for all U.S. air carriers to review the wisdom of continuing any flights into Athens until the security situation there improves.

-- Further, I have asked Secretaries Shultz and Dole to report to me on whether we should terminate the service of foreign air carriers whose governments do not honor appropriate International Conventions or provide adequate security at their airports.

-- I am calling upon all Allied and friendly governments to redouble their efforts to improve airport security and take other measures to prevent the hijacking of aircraft. I will also be asking them to take steps to prevent travel to places where lawlessness is rampant and innocent passengers are unprotected.

-- And I am urging that no American enter any Middle Eastern country that does not publicly [REDACTED] disassociate itself from this atrocity and call for the immediate, safe release of our citizens.

Let me further make it plain to the assassins in Beirut and their accomplices, wherever they may be, that America will never make concessions to terrorists. To do so would only invite more terrorism. Nor will we ask nor pressure any other government to do so. Once we head down that path, there will be no end to it -- no end to the suffering of innocent people, no end to the bloody ransom all civilized nations must pay.

This act of terrorism is a stain on Lebanon and particularly on those Lebanese in whose name it has been done. Those in Lebanon who commit these acts damage their country and their cause, and we hold them accountable.

I call upon those holding our people to release them without condition. I call upon the leaders of Lebanon, political and religious, to meet their responsibilities and to do all that is necessary to end this crime now in the name of the God they worship. And I call on other governments to speak out and use their influence as well.

This attack is an attack on all citizens of the world who seek to live free from the fear and scourge of terrorism.

My thoughts and prayers are, as are those of all Americans, with the prisoners now being held in Lebanon and with their families.

Let me conclude by stating the obvious: We are in the midst of a dangerous and volatile situation. Before taking your questions I must stress that speculation tonight over what steps we might or might not take in hypothetical circumstances can only lead terrorists to work harder. Consequently, there are many questions to which I should not and cannot respond. That said: Mike Putzel of the Associated Press has the first question.

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1230
6/18/85

TRAVEL ADVISORY

TRAVEL TO GREECE

AIRPORT SECURITY CONDITIONS - The Department of State advises travelers to Greece that several terrorist incidents have taken place at Athens International Airport. Until adequate security measures are in place, travelers should be advised that an above average potential for terrorist activity exists.

EXPIRATION DATE: INDEFINITE

added by State spokesman (approximately):

In taking this action, we consulted Pan American and Trans World ~~Lines~~ Airlines. They supported ~~the~~ the travel advisory and agreed ~~that~~ upon the importance of protecting American travelers abroad.

6538-1998

BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR WHITE HOUSE USE
IN RESPONDING TO INDIANA INQUIRIES ON THE TWA HOSTAGE SITUATION

Q: Why is there no support group in the State Department to provide information and respond to questions by the families of the hostages? Why must we rely on the television?

A: Since the beginning of the current crisis, a team of officers from the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs has been working around the clock with our Hijack Task Force to keep the families of the Americans aboard Flight 847 up to date on all developments as they occur. Unfortunately there are times when the international news media is able to report breaking events more quickly than the Department is able to directly confirm news pertaining to the hostages and personally contact every family. The Department wishes all hostage families to know that they are free to contact the Task Force on (202) 653-7959 at any hour to discuss any report which they receive through the media or any other source.

Q. Why don't we get tough with the hijackers?

A. The President has made clear his determination that America will never make concessions to terrorists. However, our primary goal is first and foremost to obtain the safe release of the innocent American victims of terror in this dangerous and volatile situation. As we have indicated before, this government intends to respond forcefully to situations of state-sponsored terrorism. However, it is much more difficult to respond militarily in situations such as this, where it appears that no state can be held accountable for the terrorists' actions and where we must carefully balance our desire for retaliation with the need to protect the well-being of our citizens.

Q. What is the general U.S. policy toward terrorism?

A. --Our basic policy is clear: As the President said in his press conference last night, "America will never make concessions to terrorists....Nor will we ask or pressure any other government to do so."

Q. Is the U.S. interested in saving face or lives?

A. As the President emphasized on June 18, our primary concern is the safe return of the hostages. It has been long standing U.S. policy not to give into attempts by terrorist groups to obtain the release of their colleagues by capturing more hostages. If we agreed to such demands, it would just encourage terrorists to take more hostages whenever some of their colleagues were captured. The effect might well be an increase in terrorism and hostage-taking. We must keep the long-range picture in mind.

Drafted: TWATF: ASteinfeld: EOdor
6/18/85; 632-6610

Clearance: TF: MGHambly
M/CTP: SFrieland
NEA/P: KPiedler

URGENT

BACKUP NOTES FOR LARRY SPEAKES

FOR BACKGROUNDER ON PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

Q. WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND IN EXPANDING THE SKY MARSHAL PROGRAM?

A:--WE'VE HAD A PROGRAM SINCE THE LATE 1960'S FOR PUTTING MARSHALS ABOARD SOME FLIGHTS. THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN CUT BACK SOMEWHAT IN RECENT YEARS AS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AIRPORT SECURITY SCREENING IN THE UNITED STATES HAS IMPROVED AND THE NUMBER OF HIJACKINGS DROPPED OFF, ALTHOUGH MARSHALS ARE STILL USED ON SOME SELECTED FLIGHTS.

WE'LL BE TAKING A LOOK AT WHERE THE MARSHALS MIGHT BE NEEDED THE MOST. THE PROGRAM WILL BE INCREASED IF NECESSARY.

(IT HAD REACHED A PEAK OF 2,000 OR 3,000 MARSHALS. THE FAA DOES NOT WANT TO SAY EXACTLY HOW MANY THEY NOW HAVE.)

Q: HOW WILL WE DECIDE IF THE GREEKS HAVE IMPROVED SECURITY AT ATHENS AIRPORT AND ARE WILLING TO COMPLY WITH THE VARIOUS SECURITY PROVISIONS OF THE AVIATION AGREEMENTS?

A: WE HAVE SENT TEAMS WITH REPRESENTATION FROM THE FAA, IATA, THE AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO ATHENS IN THE PAST TO EXAMINE THE SECURITY SITUATION THERE AND TO OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN IMPROVING SECURITY PROCEDURES. WE HAVE URGED THE GREEKS TO TIGHTEN THEIR STANDARDS. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERNS TO THEM REPEATEDLY. WE ARE WILLING TO SEND TEAMS OUT AGAIN TO SEE IF THEY HAVE ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED IMPROVEMENTS.

--THE, TOKYO, MONTREAL AND HAGUE CONVENTIONS ARE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ADOPTED OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES WHICH DEAL WITH THE PROSECUTION AND EXTRADITION OF AIRCRAFT HIJACKERS AND SABOTEURS. BASICALLY, STATES WHICH ARE PARTY TO THESE CONVENTIONS (WHICH INCLUDES THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING LEBANON AND GREECE) UNDERTAKE EITHER TO EXTRADITE AIRCRAFT HIJACKERS OR SABOTEURS OR TO SUBMIT THEIR CASES TO THEIR OWN AUTHORITIES FOR PROSECUTION.

Q. UNDER WHAT AUTHORITY CAN WE TERMINATE THE SERVICES OF FOREIGN AIRLINES WHOSE GOVERNMENTS DO NOT HONOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OR PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY AT THEIR AIRPORTS?

A:-- SEVERAL OF OUR BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENTS CONTAIN PROVISIONS PERMITTING US TO SUSPEND THE OPERATING RIGHTS OF FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS WHOSE GOVERNMENTS DO NOT LIVE UP TO ADEQUATE SECURITY STANDARDS.

IN ADDITION, IN THE BONN DECLARATION ON AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, ISSUED BY THE LEADERS OF THE SUMMIT SEVEN COUNTRIES (THE U.S., THE U.K., FRANCE, THE F.R.G., JAPAN, ITALY AND CANADA) IN 1978, WE HAVE AGREED THAT WE WILL JOINTLY SUSPEND AIR SERVICES TO AND FROM ANY COUNTRY WHOSE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT LIVE UP TO ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS EITHER TO EXTRADITE HIJACKERS OR SUBMIT THEIR CASES FOR PROSECUTION.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE CALLS ON OTHER COUNTRIES TO REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AIRPORT SECURITY. WHAT KIND OF STEPS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A:-- WHAT THE EXPERTS HAVE IN MIND ARE SUCH STEPS AS IMPROVING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS METAL DETECTORS, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE OF THE SECURITY AGENTS AT THE AIRPORTS. ALSO, SOME AIRPORTS MAY NEED ACTUAL PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LAYOUT.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN IN SUGGESTING STEPS TO PREVENT TRAVEL TO PLACES WHERE "LAWLESSNESS IS RAMPANT.?"

A. THE MOST OBVIOUS PLACE IS BEIRUT RIGHT NOW. WE HOPE THERE WILL NOT BE OTHERS IN THE FUTURE. TEHRAN IS ANOTHER COUNTRY WHOSE ACTIONS IN THE CIVIL AVIATION FIELD HAVE BEEN LAWLESS. IT HAS REFUSED TO APPLY THE HAGUE, MONTREAL AND TOKYO CONVENTIONS AND IS HARBORING THE HIJACKERS WHO KILLED 2 U.S. OFFICIALS DURING THE HIJACKING OF THE KUWAITI AIRLINER LAST DECEMBER.

DRAFTED: M/CTP:MKRAFT

(TASK FORCE EXT 632610 WANG 1057A)

L/GLEVITT

FAA: DLEACH

CLEARED: M/CTP: ROAKELY

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

18 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: RODNEY B. MCDANIEL *Rod*

SUBJECT: News Media Impact on TWA 847 Hijackers

At this morning's meeting, the question arose: is the news media influencing the activity of the TWA 847 hijackers. The answer is -- YES! How much? Significantly; in some cases, the news media is integral to the process.

- The hijackers have reportedly said they want retribution for the bombing in Beirut that the Washington Post claimed was a CIA-sponsored act.
- The hijackers have repeatedly asked for newspapers, as well as asking others what is being said about their act.
- On 18 June the hijackers told the BIA tower to keep them informed about press coverage; they also asked the tower to relay to the press their threat to crash the plane in Tel Aviv if information about the negotiations was not forthcoming.
- Press reports that JSOC forces had staged to the Mediterranean certainly influenced decision to move hostages.
- Information on the President's remarks about punishing the hijackers was broadcast on Radio Free Lebanon within 70 minutes of his making them; effects on hijackers are unknown.
- Barri is using the press as his main vehicle for posturing. In this respect, the news media is a central actor in the drama.

cc: Ollie North
Howard Teicher
Walt Raymond

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105811	CABLE RE. SRI LANKA	1	6/18/1985	B3

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED

JUN 18 11:35

JUN 18 AM 11:43

B

S/S #

STATION ROOM

001250

MESSAGE NO _____ CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED No. Pages 1
FROM KQuinn S/S 28448 7224
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)
MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Draft Presidential Press Statement

TO (Agency)	DELIVER TO	Extension	Room No
NSC	Bob Pearson	395-3044	
NSC	Ollie North		
	MARTIN		

FOR CLEARANCE ☐ INFORMATION ☒ PER REQUEST ☐ COMMENT ☐

REMARKS PLEASE DELIVER URGENTLY TO ADDRESSEES.

S/S Officer: Kly Be

DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

I will open with a statement, but because of the sensitive nature of our discussions with other governments, I will not take any questions.

Terrorism is the scourge of all mankind. It does not just affect the United States but all nations and people. Our policy of making no deals with terrorists is the right one. We will make no concessions to terrorist demands, nor will we ask others to make concessions. History has proved that giving in to such demands only leads to further acts of terrorism.

We are working to conclude this terrible event as rapidly as possible. Our minds and hearts are with the family of Navy diver Stethem who was murdered by these terrorists and our other citizens held by the terrorists and with their families. We pray for their safety and release.

N090

R1

TERRORIST CAPTURED

ROME (AP) -- ITALY'S MOST WANTED TERRORIST WAS ARRESTED TODAY, POLICE SAID. SHE IS BARBARA BALZERANI, CONVICTED IN ABSENTIA FOR THE 1978 ABDUCTION AND MURDER OF FORMER PREMIER ALDO MORO AND SUSPECTED IN THE 1981 KIDNAPPING OF U.S. BRIG. GEN. JAMES L. DOZIER.

MS. BALZERANI, 36, A TOP LEADER OF THE RED BRIGADES URBAN GUERRILLA GANG, WAS ARRESTED IN OSTIA AT THE APARTMENT OF A MAN WITH WHOM SHE HAD BEEN LIVING, POLICE SAID.

POLICE SAID THEY RAIDED THE APARTMENT AFTER RECEIVING A TIP FROM A TERRORIST TURNED POLICE INFORMER WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS GIANLUIGI CRISTIANI.

DIVORCED FROM ANTONIO MARINI, ANOTHER RED BRIGADES LEADER, MS. BALZERANI WAS DESCRIBED UNTIL LAST YEAR AS A GIRLFRIEND OF MARIO MORETTI, A FOUNDER OF THE EXTREME LEFTIST GANG, WHO IS SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE FOR THE MORO ASSASSINATION.

UNTIL HER DISAPPEARANCE IN 1978, MS. BALZERANI HAD BEEN DIRECTING THE RED BRIGADES OPERATION IN THE MILAN AREA, POLICE ALLEGED.

PROSECUTORS HAVE SAID SHE CONTINUED TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE WHILE IN HIDING, HATCHING TERRORIST PLOTS THAT INCLUDED THE DEC. 17, 1981, KIDNAPPING OF DOZIER FROM HIS APARTMENT IN VERONA. THE GENERAL WAS RESCUED BY A POLICE COMMANDO ON JAN. 28, 1982 IN THE NORTHERN CITY OF PADUA NEAR VENICE.

DESCRIBED AS A KEY MEMBER OF THE "EXECUTIVE COUNCIL" OF THE RED BRIGADES, MS. BALZERANI WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AFTER BEING TRIED FOR THE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF MORO, A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS PARTY AND A FIVE-TIME PREMIER. THE SENTENCE WAS UPHOLD BY AN APPEALS COURT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

AP-WX-06-49-85 4526FT

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PM-HIJACK-CROSS 1STLD

RED CROSS UNABLE TO ACT ON U.S. HOSTAGE REQUEST

(EDS.: ADDS FORMAL REQUEST BY U.S.)

GENEVA, JUNE 19, REUTER - THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CANNOT ACT ON A REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES TO APPROACH ISRAEL IN THE TWA HOSTAGE CRISIS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION SAID TODAY.

"IT IS NOT OUR MANDATE TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS WHO HAVE PERMANENT AND DIRECT CONTACTS," RED CROSS SPOKESMAN JEAN-JACQUES KURZ TOLD REUTERS.

THE UNITED STATES FORMALLY ASKED THE RED CROSS TO APPROACH ISRAEL OVER ITS INTENTIONS CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF SOME 700 LEBANESE SHI'ITE MUSLIM PRISONERS IN RETURN FOR ABOUT 40 AMERICAN HOSTAGES HELD BY GUERRILLAS IN BEIRUT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SHI'ITE GUNMEN SEIZED AN AMERICAN AIRLINER LAST FRIDAY AND ARE DEMANDING THAT ISRAEL RELEASE THE PRISONERS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE REMAINING U.S. HOSTAGES, NOW HIDDEN IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN BEIRUT.

REUTER 0753

R052R 11111)LCZCWHYBYL

PM-HIJACK-SPAIN

TWO SHI'ITES SOUGHT BY TWA HIJACKERS STAND TRIAL IN SPAIN

BY JUDITH MATLOFF

MADRID, JUNE 19, REUTER - TWO LEBANESE SHI'ITE MOSLEMS, WHOSE RELEASE IS SOUGHT BY HIJACKERS HOLDING ABOUT 40 AMERICAN PASSENGERS FROM A TWA PLANE IN BEIRUT, WENT ON TRIAL TODAY ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER.

THE TRIAL OPENED AMID TIGHT SECURITY AT MADRID'S PALACE OF JUSTICE COURTROOM.

THE DEFENDANTS, MOHAMMED KHAIR ABBAS RAMMAD AND MUSTAPHA ALI KHALIL, ARE ACCUSED OF TRYING TO MURDER LIBYAN DIPLOMAT MOHAMED AHMED IDRIS IN MADRID LAST SEPTEMBER.

THE DIPLOMAT ESCAPED WITH MINOR INJURIES.

THE PROSECUTION IS DEMANDING 36 YEARS FOR BOTH -- 22 YEARS FOR THE MAIN CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SEVEN YEARS EACH FOR ANCILLARY CHARGES OF ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS AND MEMBERSHIP OF AN ARMED GROUP.

DEFENSE LAWYERS PLAN TO ARGUE THAT THE TWO WERE NOT TERRORISTS BUT MEMBERS OF A LEGITIMATE ARMED FORCE.

WITHOUT TOTALLY CLOSING THE DOOR TO SOME DEAL, SPAIN HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS NOT READY TO GIVE IN TO THE HIJACKERS' DEMANDS FOR THEIR RELEASE. IN ADDITION, THE HIJACKERS WANT THE RELEASE OF 700 SHI'ITE PRISONERS HELD IN ISRAEL.

KHALIL TOLD THE COURT THAT THE TWO HAD NOT SOUGHT TO KILL THE LIBYAN WHO WAS SHOT SEVERAL TIMES IN THE ARM WHILE HE WAS DRIVING HIS BMW.

SPEAKING IN ARABIC THROUGH A SPANISH INTERPRETER HE SAID:

"OUR OBJECTIVE WAS NOT THE DIPLOMAT BUT THE CAR."

ASKED WHY THEY SOUGHT TO SHOOT AT THE CAR, HE REPLIED:

"AN ATTEMPT AGAINST THE CAR WOULD HAVE BEEN OF GREAT INTEREST."

HE ADDED THAT THE ATTACK WAS NOT JUST AGAINST THE LIBYAN DIPLOMAT BUT AGAINST ALL LIBYAN AUTHORITIES.

REUTER 0649

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PM-HIJACK-INTERVIEW 6-19

URGENT

ATTN: EDITORS -- PUBLISHERS

JOURNALISTS INTERVIEW TWA PILOT

BEIRUT, LEBANON (UPI) -- THREE VETERAN JOURNALISTS FOR ABC NEWS WERE SUMMONED UNEXPECTEDLY TO BEIRUT AIRPORT TODAY, WHERE THEY INTERVIEWED THE "EXTREMELY TIRED BUT SMILING" PILOT OF HIJACKED TWA FLIGHT 847.

TOM GOODMAN, A SPOKESMAN FOR ABC IN NEW YORK, SAID TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT CHARLES GLASS, A FORMER ABC BEIRUT BUREAU CHIEF NOW BASED IN LONDON; BEIRUT-BASED ABC RADIO CORRESPONDENT JULIE FLINT; AND DERWIN JOHNSON, AN ABC PRODUCER IN BEIRUT, WERE ALLOWED TO INTERVIEW TWA PILOT JOHN TESTRAKE.

GOODMAN SAID THE THREE WERE ACCOMPANIED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED CORRESPONDENT FOR AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, THE FRENCH NEWS AGENCY.

THE INTERVIEW, WHICH LASTED LESS THAN 10 MINUTES, WAS CONDUCTED BENEATH THE NOSE OF THE BOEING 727, WITH THE PILOT LEANING OUT A COCKPIT WINDOW.

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF GLASS'S INTERVIEW WITH TESTRAKE, A MISSOURI RESIDENT AND VETERAN TWA PILOT WHO RECENTLY BEGAN SERVING ON THE AIRLINE'S INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS.

GLASS: "CAPTAIN TESTRAKE, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE PASSENGERS ON THE AIRCRAFT?"

TESTRAKE: "NO. WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT THEY'VE BEEN TAKEN TO A SAFE PLACE, THAT THEY ARE COMFORTABLE AND BEING WELL TAKEN CARE OF."

GLASS: "DO YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGES FOR YOUR FAMILY?"

TESTRAKE: "I'D LIKE FOR MY WIFE AND MY FAMILY AND ALL OF MY FRIENDS BACK IN MISSOURI TO KNOW THAT THE LORD HAS TAKEN VERY GOOD CARE OF US SO FAR AND HE HAS SEEN US THROUGH SOME VERY TRYING TIMES AND WE WILL SEE US THROUGH TO THE END."

FOLLOWING IS FLINT'S REPORT:

"WE'RE STANDING A FEW FEET AWAY FROM THE PLANE. ONE OF THE HIJACKERS IS LEANING OUT OF THE COCKPIT WINDOW, POINTING A PISTOL AT US, AND WE DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING. ANOTHER HIJACKER -- A SHORT, FAT BOY WITH A SCARF TIED AROUND HIS HEAD -- IS STANDING AT THE BACK OF THE PLANE CARRYING A SUBMACHINE GUN. THE PILOT WAS LOOKING EXTREMELY TIRED BUT SMILING A LITTLE OUT THE WINDOW."

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INTERVIEW, THE HIJACKERS, WITH THEIR GUNS DRAWN, ORDERED THE JOURNALISTS TO RETURN TO THE AIRPORT TERMINAL.

UPI 06-19-85 06:26 AED

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HIJACKING OF TWA #847 06/14/1985: PUBLIC
AFFAIRS/MEDIA [2 OF 4]

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105812	WASHFAX RE. PRESS	1	6/19/1985	B3

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643

Current listing of: T10213:2
Slug: PM-Hijack-EuropeReax
Category: APTVri

06-1

06/19/85 02:58 Page:
Date: 06/19/85 02:40:09
Story: p0251

^PM-Hijack-Europe Reax, 0526<

^European Press Reaction Divided On Hijack Crisis<

^With PM-Hijacking, Bjt<

LONDON (AP) European newspapers are deeply divided over the hijack drama in Lebanon, some sympathizing with the United States, others taking a less friendly line and several urging against U.S. military retaliation.

Gunmen who boarded a TWA jetliner in Athens, Greece, were holding the plane and about 40 American hostages in Beirut today in an effort to gain the release of more than 700 Shiite prisoners detained in Israel.

The Liberal London newspaper the Guardian wrote in an editorial: "After the bombing of its Marine headquarters and its Embassy in Beirut the United States wisely refrained from lashing out in all directions, as it had threatened to do, in retaliation.

"Some similar restraint is needed this time," the newspaper said.

London's Conservative tabloid the Daily Express said it agreed with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's advice to Reagan not to negotiate over the hostages.

"Sooner or later a stand must be made. And as President Reagan once asked, rhetorically, 'If not us - who? If not now - when?'" the newspaper said.

Rome's leftist daily La Repubblica said it believed that rage and frustration might in the end goad the United States into retaliation.

Another Rome paper, the liberal Il Messaggero, wrote: "Israel would do well to give back immediately those Shiite prisoners that the minister (Nabih Berri, Lebanon's Justice Minister and leader of the Shiite Amal militia) prizes so much. They are his kind of people. He can have them."

President Reagan on Tuesday night accused Greece of unwillingness to comply with international flight security agreements.

The leftist Athens daily Ethnos wrote Tuesday: "It is ridiculous to blame this hijacking on negligence at Athens airport ... or to attack the Greek government for hastening to save Greek lives. Something else is responsible.... Imperialism should be left to reap what it has sown."

Commenting on the release of Greek passengers after Greece released one of the suspected hijack team who was left in Athens, Ethnos wrote: "Thanks to the Greek government's coolness, decisiveness and speed, a bloody, ill-fated end to the hijacking was averted for the Greek passengers and those of Greek descent."

The Conservative Athens daily Messimvrini (Midday) wrote: "The happy ending of (the Greek passengers') terrible adventure should not for the moment allow small-minded criticism of the methods the government was forced to use to purchase their freedom.

But the government must take care of one thing - the continuing lack of security at Athens Airport, which yet again was

Current listing of: T10213:2

06/19/85 02:58 Page: 2

02:58 to be undefended against international terrorists.''

The official Soviet news agency Tass and state-run Radio Moscow charged Tuesday that the U.S. decision to send warships to the eastern Mediterranean near the Lebanese coast was not motivated by concern for the hostages' safety.

Observers believe that the U.S. might stage military interference in the area on the pretext of freeing the passengers,' Radio Moscow said.

Tass said: 'The point at issue is... a joint U.S.-Israeli large-scale operation, which is more likely in the nature of an impending invasion operation or a cover for some hostile actions in that region.'

AP-NY-06-19-85 0256EDT<

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

19 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: RODNEY B. MCDANIEL *Red*

SUBJECT: Public Opinion on Hijacking

Ron Hinckley has examined the ABC/WPOST poll and talked to CBS pollster Warren Mitofsky about the CBS poll on the current hijacking incident (See Tab I). He has also examined previous public opinion polls on terrorism dating back to 1977 (See Tab II). His conclusions are presented below.

Summary of Findings

The public opinion surveys reported today are only the first of what will become an avalanche of media polls on the hijacking incident in particular, and terrorism in general.

Initially, Americans will approve of the President's response to the hijacking, but they will become more and more critical the longer the incident goes unresolved. Carter dropped from 77% approval to only 43% approval in the first 4 months of the Iranian hostage crisis.

Americans are tougher on terrorism in the abstract than in the concrete circumstances of an actual incident. Hence, they oppose dealing with terrorists in general, but are more than willing to negotiate with and accede to terrorists during a specific incident to protect the hostages.

Serious support for military retaliation occurs only when hostages are harmed or killed or when time passes with no resolution of the situation and the pressures build to "do something." In the latter case, approval of military action occurs despite the knowledge that it will likely be unsuccessful and would put the hostages in greater danger.

The public opinion pattern developing now is similar to that found during the Iranian hostage incident.

People have mixed feelings about the media's role during terrorist incidents:

- . On one hand, Americans believe that the media should be allowed to cover incidents because of the need to keep people informed, and their absence would not reduce the likelihood of future terrorism.
- . On the other hand, Americans believe that media coverage encourages other incidents, that the media shouldn't have direct contact with terrorists, that airing terrorist demands does not help resolve the incident, that coverage often promotes the reporters and sympathizes with the terrorists at the expense of the victims, and that reporters should work with the authorities on stories that might interfere with negotiations.

ABC/WPOST AND CBS POLLS

The data reported by ABC/WPOST today:

- . Were from the first night (Monday, 17 June) of interviewing and a small sample (508).
- . These two factors (one night of interviewing and a small sample), plus the fact that the incident is ongoing and daily events will affect public opinion throughout the survey period, make the results reported statistically unstable.
- . More information on the questions reported and data on other questions that were probably asked, such as a rating of how the President is handling the situation, will be reported on in the future.
- . Reported the American public's willingness (58%) to negotiate with and accede to the terrorist demands to avoid injury or murder of the hostages.
- . Found a plurality (48%) opposed to asking Israel to release its captives, compared to 41% who favored doing this, but a majority (60%) who believe Israel should release the Shiites without any American request if it would ensure release of the TWA hostages.
- . Identified other Israel-related attitudes such as 50% sentiment that Israel has not done what it should to help resolve the hostage situation, and 54% who do not feel the U.S. should reduce its ties to Israel to lessen terrorist acts in the Middle East.
- . Showed 61% disagreeing that there is nothing the U.S. can do to prevent such acts of terrorism, but 51% disagreeing that the U.S. is largely to blame for this incident because it has not dealt firmly enough with terrorists in the past.

According to Warren Mitofsky, CBS's pollster, their poll (for which we do not have the data) -- apparently taken after the President's press conference -- reveals the following:

- . The President's comments about traveling in Greece got through to the American public;
- . Americans expect the USG to negotiate with the hijackers;
- . Israel is not blamed for the incident, and there is no real desire to pressure Israel;
- . The public does not respond favorably to aggressive/macho talk about how to handle the incident;

- . Even after the hostages are freed, only one in three (35%) favor any type of military retaliation.
- . Overall, the public opinion is similar to the Iranian situation: get the people out and negotiate if you have to do it.

HISTORICAL PUBLIC OPINION ON HIJACKING/TERRORISM

Importance of Terrorism

Lou Harris has reported:

- . 90% say terrorism is a serious problem (1977);
- . 65% say there will be no reduction in terrorist incidents in their lifetime (1981), and;
- . 50% believed human rights should have a higher priority than opposing international terrorism (1981).

Media Involvement

Gallup reported the following in 1977:

- . Two in three Americans (64%) believe news media coverage of terrorism encourages others to commit these acts.
- . The people are divided as to whether the news media over-emphasizes reporting terrorism (47%) or such reporting is necessary to keep people fully informed (50%).

The Washington Post reported these attitudes in 1983:

- . People oppose news reporters' communicating with terrorists and favor that contact be through government officials who are designated to negotiate with the terrorists.
- . A majority (54%) feels that allowing terrorists to air their demands on television does not help end the terrorist situation.
- . People are generally critical of news coverage, which is seen as promoting the reporters more than helping the situation.
- . People favor some controls on media coverage.
- . People do not believe that the absence of media coverage will reduce terrorist incidents.
- . News stories often show more sympathy for terrorists than for victims.
- . Reporters should check with authorities before broadcasting stories that might interfere with negotiations.

- . The media should cover terrorists incidents even if that would cause other, similar events.
- . TV news coverage of terrorist incidents causes other, similar events.

Rating of President's Actions

In December, 1979, Newsweek reported Carter's approval rating for at 77%.

In February, 1980, Lou Harris reported Carter's handling of the hostage situation a success to 44% of the public, a failure to 36%.

A month later Harris/ABC reported a 43% positive rating for Carter and a 55% negative one. The same survey found only 31% who felt Carter's efforts were a success, compared to 47% who felt they were a failure.

Military Force

In December, 1979 Newsweek reported:

- . If hostages were to be released unharmed, only 5% advocated using military force as retaliation; 63% favored diplomatic and economic punishment.
- . If hostages were to be harmed, 41% favor use of military force, but 49% still favor diplomatic and economic punishment.
- . Two in three (67%) did not feel it possible to rescue hostages through military action.

In January, 1980, Time Magazine reported:

- . 75% were opposed to the use of military force to retaliate if hostages are finally released.
- . 67% favored the use of military force if the hostages were hurt or killed.

Surveying attitudes in the wake of the failed hostage rescue mission in April 1980, CBS/NYTIMES report the following:

- . 66% felt the mission was a good idea 66%;
- . 65% felt it should have happened earlier;
- . 54% said it should have been kept secret from Congress and 68% favored secrecy from our allies;

- . 54% acknowledged it put hostages in greater danger, and;
- . 54% was done by Carter because it was the best thing to do.

In January, 1981, Newsweek reported that

- . 63% believed it likely Reagan will use military force against Iran.
- . 43% favored diplomatic and economic punishment, and 36% favored military action if the hostages were put on trial.
- . 47% did not believe a military rescue possible, 35% did.

Negotiations

A Decision/Making/Information poll found 73% agreed that if one gave the Iranians what they wanted, any country will grab U.S. citizens and trade them for money.

In January, 1980, Newsweek reported that 60% favor continued negotiations with Iran, 14% wanted to stop negotiations until after the hostages were released, and 18% favored military intervention.

In 1977 Lou Harris reported that 51% favored refusing to make concessions to terrorists even if this meant the hostages ended up being killed.

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105813	CABLE RE. LEBANON [W/CABLE ON AIRPORT]	2	6/20/1985	B3

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ISRAEL-HIJACK

JERUSALEM (AP) -- ISRAEL MIGHT RELEASE SOME OF ITS 700 SHIITE MOSLEM PRISONERS BEFORE AMERICAN HOSTAGES BEING HELD IN BEIRUT ARE FREED, BUT THERE IS NO "LINKAGE" TO THE DEMANDS OF THE TERRORISTS HOLDING THE PASSENGERS AND CREW FROM THE HIJACKED TWA JET, A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INDICATED TODAY.

"SINCE WE SEE NO LINKAGE BETWEEN THE HIJACKING AND THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINEES EVEN IF IT (THE HOSTAGE CRISIS) WILL GO ON, IT HAS NO EFFECT ON OUR DECISION ON WHETHER TO RELEASE THEM AND IN WHAT QUANTITIES," SAID THE OFFICIAL, WHO SPOKE ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY.

"AND IF WE RELEASE THE DETAINEES TOMORROW MORNING, NO ONE SHOULD DRAW ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO THINGS," THE OFFICIAL SAID.

THE STATEMENT SEEMED INTENDED TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION AT HOME AND ABROAD IF IT IS DECIDED TO RESUME RELEASING PRISONERS FROM ATLIT IN NORTHERN ISRAEL WITHOUT DIRECTLY LINKING THE RELEASE TO THE HOSTAGE CRISIS.

THE HIJACKERS HAVE SAID THEY WILL NOT FREE THEIR AMERICAN HOSTAGES UNTIL ISRAEL RELEASES THE SHIITES. BUT TODAY, AN AIDE TO WARIH BERRIL, A LEBANESE SHIITE MOSLEM MILITIA LEADER WHO SAYS HE HAS CONTROL OF SOME OF THE HOSTAGES, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CBS TELEVISION THAT THE HOSTAGES MIGHT BE FREED IN RETURN FOR A PROMISE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE RED CROSS THAT THE PRISONERS IN ISRAEL WOULD BE RELEASED.

THE AIDE, AKEF HAIDAR, TOLD CBS THAT THE HOSTAGES "ARE TOTALLY UNDER THE HIJACKERS' CONTROL, IF YOU LIKE, BUT THE ARAB MOVEMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO SEE THEM AND WE HAVE SEEN THEM."

AP-WX-06-20-85 1231EDT

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85 JUN 20 17:18

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MESSAGE NO. 001368 CLASSIFICATION _____ No. Pages 1

FROM: Mike Austrian NEA 632-6610 7516
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Press Release

TO: (Agency)	DELIVER TO:	Extension	Room No.
<u>WHITEHOUSE</u>	<u>COL. NORTH</u>		<u>Situation Room</u>
	<u>& PRESS OFFICE</u>		
	<u>Martin</u>		
	<u>NSC S/S</u>		

FOR: CLEARANCE ☐ INFORMATION ☒ PER REQUEST ☐ COMMENT ☐

REMARKS: _____

RGENT

S/S Officer: F.4 / 103

June 20, 1985

HIJACKING

THE PRESS CONFERENCE STAGED BY THE CAPTORS OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES WAS A CYNICAL EXPLOITATION OF INNOCENT VICTIMS OF TERRORISM. THE HOSTAGES CLEARLY WERE SPEAKING UNDER DURESS.

WE FIND THE REPORT THAT AMERICANS OF THE JEWISH FAITH HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER HOSTAGES BECAUSE OF "JEWISH SOUNDING NAMES" OR SUPPOSED "ZIONIST LINKS" REPUGNANT AND REPREHENSIBLE. MINISTER OF JUSTICE NABIH BERRI HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY OF THE HOSTAGES. WE TAKE THIS ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY AND UNDERScore OUR VIEW THAT THIS RESPONSIBILITY EXTENDS TO ALL THE HOSTAGES.

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105814	CABLE RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/20/1985	B3

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105815	CABLE RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/20/1985	B3

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105816 CABLE	RE. HOSTAGES	1	6/20/1985	B3

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FRANKFURT, WEST GERMANY, JUNE 20, REUTER - NO ONE HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMB ATTACK WHICH KILLED THREE PEOPLE AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT YESTERDAY, BUT POLICE ARE REFUSING TO SPECULATE ON A POSSIBLE LINK WITH THE HIJACKING OF A TRANS WORLD AIRLINES (TWA) JET IN ATHENS ON FRIDAY.

ASC

THE BOMB, THE FIRST TO BE DIRECTED AT PASSENGERS AT THE BUSY INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL, CAME IN THE WAKE OF WORLDWIDE CONCERN OVER AIRPORT SECURITY FOLLOWING FRIDAY'S HIJACKING AND SUBSEQUENT U.S. CRITICISM OF ATHENS AIRPORT.

THE DEVICE, THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN IN A WASTECAN, EXPLODED AT NEAR GREECE'S OLYMPIC AIRWAYS COUNTER AND KILLED A MAN AND TWO CHILDREN, ALL PASSENGERS.

BUT POLICE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE MUTILATED BODIES AND WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON A POSSIBLE LINK WITH THE TWA HIJACKING BY LEBANESE GUNMEN.

THEY ESTIMATED THE BOMB WEIGHED 10 POUNDS OR MORE. IT BLEW OUT THE WINDOWS OF THE CROWDED TERMINAL, MANGLED FURNITURE AND BAGGAGE AND SENT DEBRIS SPEWING UP TO THE NEXT FLOOR OF THE BUILDING.

"A FLAME SHOT UP, AND THERE WAS LOTS OF SMOKE AND A LOUD DETONATION," SAID WITNESS JURGEN GRAALS, A WEST GERMAN LAWYER ON HIS WAY TO BERLIN, WHO WAS A FEW YARDS FROM THE EXPLOSION, WHICH HURLED PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR SEATS.

"A CHILD LAY THERE WITHOUT LEGS," HE SAID. "THERE WERE BITS OF PEOPLE'S BODIES ALL OVER THE PLACE. I CRIED WHEN I SAW IT. IT WAS HELL."

A VINTAGE RED CROSS AIRCRAFT SUSPENDED FROM THE CEILING AS PART OF AN EXHIBITION CAUGHT FIRE AS THE DEVICE EXPLODED BELOW IT. "IT WAS SURREAL," SAID AMERICAN CBS JOURNALIST STEVE KROFT, WHO WAS IN THE AIRPORT AT THE TIME. "IT WAS LIKE A PLANE BEING SHOT DOWN."

REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE SECOND BOMB TURNED OUT BE FALSE, AND POLICE AND SPECIALIST UNITS WERE SIFTING THROUGH THE WRECKAGE FOR CLUES LATE INTO THE NIGHT.

FRANKFURT IS WEST GERMANY'S BIGGEST AIRPORT AND HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF THREE HIJACKINGS OVER THE PAST YEAR. IT LIES ADJACENT TO THE U.S. RHINE-MAIN AIRFORCE BASE, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO SPECULATION THAT THE ATTACK WAS DIRECTED AT THE U.S. MILITARY.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAY AIRPORT SECURITY IS GOOD, WITH SOME 300 WEST GERMAN POLICE AND PARAMILITARY BORDER GUARDS ON PERMANENT DUTY THERE.

THE BOMB WENT OFF WITHOUT WARNING IN THE BUSY DEPARTURE LOUNGE WHERE SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, INCLUDING THE WEST GERMAN LUFTHANSA, HAVE THEIR CHECK-IN DESKS.

TWENTY-EIGHT PEOPLE WERE INJURED, AND LAST NIGHT FIVE WERE STILL IN CRITICAL CONDITION. POLICE WERE UNABLE TO GIVE THE AGE OR NATIONALITY OF THE DEAD AND INJURED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

85 JUN 20 AM 12

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

B

S/S #

5 JUN 20 AM 49

MESSAGE NO

001312

CLASSIFICATION

Unclassified

No. Pages

8

FROM

Bernie Kalb

(Office name)

PA

(Office symbol)

x 9606

(Extension)

6800

(Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION

TWA Hijacking 6/20 Q/As

TO (Agency)

White House

DELIVER TO:

Larry Speakes

Extension

456-2100

Room No

Press Office

Sims

Small

MARTIN

NSC/S

(Local)

FOR:

CLEARANCE ☐

INFORMATION ☐

PER REQUEST ☐

COMMENT ☐

REMARKS

North

Teicher
Covey

S/S Officer:

Handwritten signature

TWA HIJACKING: 6/20

There have been no new developments overnight. 37 passengers and three crew members from TWA flight 847 remain hostages in Beirut. [The 3 crew members remain on board the aircraft and were interviewed yesterday by an ABC reporter. They say there are no passengers with them on board the plane and that they are under heavy guard but otherwise in "tolerable" conditions.]

Nabih Barri has told us the other passengers are safe. They are apparently being held in Beirut, probably in two or more groups. One group is presumed to consist of the passengers taken from the plane during the second stop in Beirut.

Mr. Barri has assumed responsibility for dealing with the hijackers. He has assured us the passengers are safe and well. We have told him we consider him responsible for the safe return of our people and the prompt resolution of this affair.

There is no change in the U.S. position: We will not make concessions to terrorists nor will we pressure other states to do so. Conceding in such circumstances is tantamount to blackmail. It would encourage terrorists elsewhere in the world to think that such tactics can succeed.

As the President said the other night, we are not going to be able to respond to specific questions about diplomatic efforts we are making. We will continue to draw on the full range of resources available to us to obtain the safe release of all the passengers and the crew.

We have been cooperating closely with a number of countries and international organizations.

ALGERIA'S ROLE

Q: There are reports today that Algeria has offered to mediate in Beirut. Is this something new and what do you think of the Algerian offer?

A: --Algeria has been helpful from the beginning and continues to be so. As I said, I am not going to be able to talk about specifics.

SIZE OF "JEWISH NAMES GROUP"

Q: Do you now have confirmation as to how many passengers were taken off the plane during the second stop in Beirut? The ones with the "Jewish sounding names" and others.

A: We do not have precise information. According to reports it may have been between six and twelve.

HEZBOLLAH ROLE

Q: Is Hezbollah holding some of the hostages?

A: There are reports of Hezbollah involvement. We also have indications that the passengers are not all being held together. The crew, of course, have now been interviewed by ABC and report there are no passengers on the plane. Mr. Barri has said all the passengers are safe.

Q: Are you disturbed by this -- that the passengers are not being held together?

A: We are disturbed by the fact that the passengers and crew are being held against their will. That is the essential point.

EARLY SWAP

Q: What can you tell us about the WP report that there was an attempt to arrange a swap in the first 24 hours? A swap of the TWA hostages for the detainees in Israel?

A: U.S. policy has been and remains that we will not make concessions to terrorists and we will not ask other governments to do so. We have not and will not agree to any such linkage. Our goal has been the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages hijacked on TWA flight 847.

Q: Did the President turn down a recommendation from State Department experts that there be a swap?

A: --U.S. policy has been and remains that we will not make concessions to terrorists and we will not ask other governments to do so. We have not and will not agree to any such linkage. Our goal has been the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages hijacked on TWA flight 847.

ICRC ROLE

Q: Has the U.S. asked the ICRC to ask Israel to free the Shi'a prisoners in Israel?

A: We have not asked the ICRC to negotiate. We are not asking anyone to make concessions to terrorists. Israel's policy of returning the prisoners transferred from Lebanon is a matter of record, and in fact, the linkage to hostages taken from a hijacked airplane is only impeding the implementation of that policy.

Q: Did the ICRC turn down a US request to go to Israel to determine the status of the Ansar prisoners?

A: --As I have said, I am not going to get into the specifics of our diplomatic efforts.

U.S.G. MOOD

Q: Are you hopeful this morning?

A: I can't give you any reading.

SYRIA'S ROLE

Q: Did the US Government send a second cable to Assad asking for his help?

A: --I am not going to comment on reported diplomatic exchanges.

Q: How do you interpret Assad's presence in Moscow?

A: --We have no reason to believe there is anything to this visit other than routine consultations. Syria and the Soviet Union have close political and military ties and, to our knowledge, Assad has not previously met with Gorbachev since the latter assumed the party chairmanship.

RABIN'S COMMENTS ON HIJACKING

Q: Any reaction to Rabin's comments yesterday on the hijacking?

A: No.

ABC FILM

Q: What did you learn from the ABC film of the crew and can you identify any of the hijackers?

A: --The film confirmed that the crew is still on the plane, and bearing up well under extremely difficult circumstances. Beyond that, I have nothing for you.

TRIPOLI BOMBING

Q: Any comment on the bombing in Tripoli yesterday?

A: --As we have repeatedly said, we deplore the continuing violence in Lebanon.

REGIONAL CONDEMNATION OF HIJACKING

Q: What countries in the region have condemned the hijacking?

A: --A number of countries in the region have made, in one way or another, statements on this subject. Here in Washington the Government of Tunisia made a statement. Iraq has issued a condemnation, as has Egypt through its press. King Hussein sent a letter to President Reagan which strongly condemns the hijacking, calling it a "dastardly crime." Other governments as well have in various ways been indicating to us their opposition to the hijacking.

ISRAELI POLICY ON ANSAR PRISONERS

Q: What is Israel's policy on the Ansar prisoners?

A: --Israel has stated that its policy is to release the prisoners who were transferred from Ansar to Israel as the security situation permits. In effect, the hijacking of the TWA aircraft is impeding implementation of a process which was already underway.

--The hostages should be released. That has nothing to do with the Ansar prisoners. We have not and will not agree to any such linkage. Our goal has been the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages hijacked on TWA flight 847.

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NEA/ARN:MACasey
M/CTP:PBorg
NEA:RPelletreau
EUR/SOV:EEdelean

