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Collection: North, Oliver L.: Files, 1982-1986

Folder Title: Hijacking of TWA #847 06/14/1985:

NSC Memos (2 of 3)

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Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name North, Oliver: Files Withdrawer

RBW 3/2/2011

File Folder HIJACKING OF TWA #847 06/14/1985: NSC MEMOS (2 OF FOLA

3)

F97-046/4

Box Number 101 WILLS

				41	
ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages		Restrictions
106134	МЕМО	GEORGE SHULTZ TO RR RE. STATUS REPORT ON TWA HIJACKING	2	6/16/1985	B1
106135	MEMO	OLIVER NORTH TO WILLIAM MARTIN RE. BEIRUT SITUATION	1	6/19/1985	B1
106136	МЕМО	MARTIN TO NICHOLAS PLATT RE. REPORTS ON BEIRUT [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106135]	1	ND	B1
106137	PROFS	MARTIN TO OLIVER NORTH RE. SENIOR STAFF MTG. [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106136]	1	6/19/1985	B1
106138	ROUTING	SLIP RE. HIJACKERS [ANNOTATED]	1	6/19/1985	B1
106139	МЕМО	PETER SOMMER TO JOHN POINDEXTER RE. MEETING WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106138]	1	6/19/1985	B1
106140	MEMO	HOWARD TEICHER TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE. PRESIDENT'S MTG. W/HOSTAGE RELATIVES	1	6/20/1985	B1
106141	МЕМО	MCFARLANE TO RR RE. MTG. W/HOSTAGE RELATIVES [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106140]	2	6/21/1985	B1

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]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

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B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA] B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name North, Oliver: Files

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3/2/2011

File Folder

HIJACKING OF TWA #847 06/14/1985: NSC MEMOS (2 OF

FOIA

3)

F97-046/4

Box Number 10

101

WILLS

BOX Number 101 WILLS					
ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages		Restrictions
106142	TALKING PTS.	RE. MTG. W/HOSTAGE RELATIVES [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106141]	1	6/21/1985	B1
106143	TALKING PTS.	RE. MTG. W/HOSTAGE RELATIVES [ATTACHED TO AND SAME TEXT AS DOC. 106142]	1	ND	B1
106144	MEMO	TEICHER TO MCFARLANE RE. TWA 847	3	6/20/1985	B1 B3

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

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 18, 1985

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

Presidential News Conference Opening Statement

Attached at Tab I is the NSC concurrence in the President's news conference opening statement as written (Tab II).

Howard Teicher and Karna Small concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize Bill Martin to sign and forward the memo at Tab I.

Approve WM

Disapprove ____

Attachments

Tab I - Martin Memo to Chew w/copy to Elliott

Tab II - Presidential News Conference Opening Statement

	4897	
Document No.		

HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/18/85	ACTION/CONCUR	RENCE/CO	MMENT DUE BY:	IMMEDIATE (10 mi	nutes)			
SUBJECT: REMARKS:	NEWS CONFERENC	CE OPEN	ING STATEMEN	VT T				
	ACTION	N FYI		ACTIO	N FYI			
VICE PRESIDENT			LACY					
REGAN			McFARLANE					
STOCKMAN			OGLESBY					
BUCHANAN			ROLLINS					
CHAVEZ	. 🗖		RYAN					
CHEW	□P	□SS	SPEAKES	₩				
DANIELS			SPRINKEL					
FIELDING			SVAHN					
FRIEDERSDORF			TUTTLE					
HENKEL								
HICKEY								
HICKS								
KINGON								
REMARKS:	REMARKS:							

Please submit your comments directly to Ben Elliott within 10 minutes following delivery, and provide an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

MEMO FOR DAVID L. CHEW

June 18, 1985

NSC concurs in the Presidential opening statement as written.

cc: Ben Elliott

Executive Secretary Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

(Elliott/North)
June 18, 1985
5:30 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 through the head 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 warred against by international terrorists who wantonly kill and who seize our innocent citizens as their prisoners. As a first in response to this situation, I am directing that the following steps be taken:

- I have directed the Secretary of Transporation, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, to explore immediately an expansion of our armed sky marshall program aboard international flights of U.S. air carriers for better protection of passengers.
- -- I am directing the Secretary of State to issure 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 which do not honor appropriate International Conventions or provide adequate security at their airports.
- 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 together 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 condemn and 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 or 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 required 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. Yes, this subject is foremost in your minds, but please understand that there are many questions I cannot answer here tonight. That said: Mike Putzel of the Associated Press has the first question.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 18, 1985

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

Vice President's Statement at Andrews AFB

Attached at Tab I is the NSC concurrence in the Vice President's statement to be made this evening at Andrews AFB (Tab II).

Howard Teicher and Karna Small concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize Bill Martin to sign and forward the memo at Tab I.

Approve

Disapprove ____

Attachments

Tab I - Martin Memo to Chew w/copy to Elliott

Tab II - Vice President's Statement

Document No.	
	Company of the Compan

85 JUNIEUFE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDU

ATE: 6/18/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10 minutes						
SUBJECT: VICE PRE	SIDENT'S STAT	EMENT .	AT ANDREWS AFB	THIS EVENING		
	ACTION	N FYI		ACTIO	N FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT			LACY			
REGAN		. 4	McFARLANE	The state of the s		
STOCKMAN			OGLESBY			
BUCHANAN			ROLLINS			
CHAVEZ			RYAN			
CHEW	□P	□SS	SPEAKES		- -	
DANIELS			SPRINKEL			
FIELDING			SVAHN			
FRIEDERSDORF			TUTTLE			
HENKEL			Collamore			
HICKEY						
HICKS						
KINGON			-			
REMARKS:						

Please submit your comments directly to Tom Collamore immediately with an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

6/18/85

MEMO FOR DAVID L. CHEW

June 18, 1985

NSC concurs in the Vice President's statement as written.

William F. Martin Executive Secretary

David L. Chew **Staff Secretary** Ext. 2702

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY REMARKS WILL BE BRIEF.

WE ARE HERE THIS EVENING TO RECEIVE IN THE NAME OF OUR COUNTRY THE REMAINS OF AN AMERICAN SERVICEMAN WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. ROBERT DEAN STETHEM WAS KILLED BY CRIMINALS WHO SINGLED HIM OUT FOR DEATH BECAUSE HE CARRIED WITH PRIDE AMONG HIS PAPERS THE INFORMATION THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ROBERT DEAN STETHEM OF THE U.S. NAVY WAS ONLY 23 YEARS OLD, BUT HE LOVED HIS COUNTRY WITH A YOUNG MAN'S LOVE, AND HE SERVED IT WITH VIGOR AND FAITH. TO YOU, MR. AND MRS. RICHARD STETHEM, MAY I SAY THAT I KNOW NO WORDS CAN CONSOLE. BUT WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SON. WE THANK YOU FOR THAT FINE YOUNG MAN. WE THANK YOU FOR HIS COURAGE.

WE WILL NOT FORGET HIM. AND WE WILL NOT FORGET THOSE WHO TOOK HIM FROM US. ROBERT DEAN STETHEM WAS AN INNOCENT VICTIM OF A CRUELTY THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES AND A BARBARISM THAT SELECTS THE BLAMELESS FOR PUNISHMENT. WE CANNOT AND WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS EVIL.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU, MR. AND MRS. STETHEM, IN YOUR TIME OF PAIN; AND MAY HE EMBRACE YOUR LOVELY SON AS HE LEADS HIM TO HIS REST.

1854

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 18, 1985

SECRET

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. MARTIN

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

Status Report on the TWA Hijacking

Attached at Tab I is a memo from Secretary ** Shultz to the President forwarding a status report as of June 16 on the TWA Flight #847 hijacking. This ** situation report has already been briefed to the President.

RECOMMENDATION

That you place this in the file "for the record."

Approve MM

Disapprove ____

Attachment

Tab I - Shultz Memo to the President of June 16, 1985

Declassify: OADR

Sec.3.4(b), E.O. 12058, as amended
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2006
BY NARA (W), DATE 3 (8, 11)

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FOIA

HIJACKING OF TWA #847 06/14/1985: NSC MEMOS (2 OF 3)

F97-046/4

WILLS

Box Number

101

41

ID	Document Type	No of Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages	tions

106134 MEMO

2 6/16/1985

B1

GEORGE SHULTZ TO RR RE. STATUS REPORT ON TWA HIJACKING

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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F97-046/4

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Box Number

101

41

ID	Document Type	No of Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages	tions

106135 MEMO

1 6/19/1985

B1

OLIVER NORTH TO WILLIAM MARTIN RE. BEIRUT SITUATION

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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F97-046/4

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Box Number

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41

ID	Document Type	No of Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages	tions

106136 MEMO

ND

1

B1

MARTIN TO NICHOLAS PLATT RE. REPORTS ON BEIRUT [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106135]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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HIJACKING OF TWA #847 06/14/1985: NSC MEMOS (2 OF 3)

F97-046/4

WILLS

Box Number

101

41

ID	Document Type	No of	Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages		tions

106137 PROFS

1 6/19/1985 B1

MARTIN TO OLIVER NORTH RE. SENIOR STAFF MTG. [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106136]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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HIJACKING OF TWA #847 06/14/1985: NSC MEMOS (2 OF 3)

FOIA

F97-046/4

WILLS

Box Number

101

41

ID	Document Type	No of	Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages		tions

106138 ROUTING

1 6/19/1985

B1

SLIP RE. HIJACKERS [ANNOTATED]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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HIJACKING OF TWA #847 06/14/1985: NSC MEMOS (2 OF 3) F97-046/4

WILLS

Box Number

101 41

ID	Document Type	No of	Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages		tions

106139 MEMO 1 6/19/1985 B1

PETER SOMMER TO JOHN POINDEXTER RE. MEETING WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106138]

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WILLS

Box Number

101 41

ID	Document Type		No of Doc Date		
	Document Description	pages		tions	

106140 MEMO 1 6/20/1985 **B**1

HOWARD TEICHER TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE. PRESIDENT'S MTG. W/HOSTAGE RELATIVES

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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ID	Document Type	No of	Restric-	
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106141 MEMO

2 6/21/1985

B1

MCFARLANE TO RR RE. MTG. W/HOSTAGE RELATIVES [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106140]

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101 41

ID	Document Type	No of	Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages		tions

106142 TALKING PTS.

1

6/21/1985 **B**1

RE. MTG. W/HOSTAGE RELATIVES [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106141]

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Box Number

101

ID	Document Type	No of Doc Date	Restric-
	Document Description	pages	tions

106143 TALKING PTS.

1 ND

B1

RE. MTG. W/HOSTAGE RELATIVES [ATTACHED TO AND SAME TEXT AS DOC. 106142]

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

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North, Oliver: Files

Withdrawer

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FOIA

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ID	Document Type Document Description	No of pages	Doc Date	Restric- tions
1061	44 MEMO	3	6/20/1985	B1
	TEICHER TO MCFARLANE RE. TWA 847			В3

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4913 Add-on

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION	June 20, 1985						
MEMORANDUM FOR	WILLIAM F. MARTIN						
FROM:	KARNA SMALL						
SUBJECT:	Insert on Terrorism for Presidential Address at International Lions Club Convention						
address at the some suggested office was adv	We have reviewed the insert on terrorism for the President's address at the International Lions Club Convention and have made some suggested changes. Because of the urgency, Ben Elliott's office was advised by telephone. Teicher concurs.						
RECOMMENDATION							
That you sign	the memo to Ben Elliott at Tab I.						
Approve _	Disapprove						
Attachment							
	to Ben Elliott with attached insert Presidential address						
	June 20, 1985						

Per instructions from VADM Poindexter, North coordinated a new draft with Ben Elliott which is attached.

Oliver North

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM:

WILLIAM F. MARTIN

SUBJECT:

Insert on Terrorism for Presidential Address at the International Lions Club Convention

NSC concurs in the insert attached.

Attachment

Insert on Terrorism

Version: (Rohrabacher/BE/PJB June 20, 1985 6:30 p.m.)

Document No.	4913	add-on	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDURGENT

DATE: 6/20/85		_ ACTION/CONCU	IRRENCE/CO	3:00 P.M. TODA	ΔY	
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REMARKS:

Attached is an insert for tomorrow's address to the Lions Club, which cover the recent international events. Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 3:00 p.m. today, with an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Rohrabacher/BE/PJB)
June 20, 1985
6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: INSERT FOR INTERNATIONAL LIONS

CLUB CONVENTION DALLAS, TEXAS

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1985

In the last few days it has become ever more clear that the criminal threat to civilization is no mere domestic problem. Wednesday night in El Salvador, four young Marines in civilian clothes, along with civilians from America and several other countries, were gunned down in a sidewalk cafe. This event was preceded by the wanton bombing of an air terminal in Frankfurt, the hijacking of one of our airliners, and the seizure of a Jordanian aircraft.

The killers in El Salvador are no different than these other perpetrators of inhumane acts. I can promise all of them this: they will never succeed in weakening our resolve to resist terrorism.

We consider these murders, hijackings, and abductions an attack on all western civilization.

We will continue to act with appropriate restraint, but let no one doubt our resolve. Those who commit such crimes should be aware of the truth of President Theodore Roosevelt's observation, "The American people are slow to wrath, but when their wrath is once kindled it burns like a consuming flame."

Our patience is not inexhaustible.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



June 20, 1985

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF

FROM:

ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

SUBJECT:

Congressional ltr to the President regarding

Safety of U.S. Hostages in Lebanon

Attached at Tab A are letters prepared for your signature to Senator Paul Simon and Congressman George O'Brien. Your letters respond to a letter written to the President by 205 Congressional members (Tab B) regarding efforts to recover the Americans taken hostage in Beirut.

RECOMMENDATION

That	you	sign	and	forward	the	letters	at	Tab	Α.	
_				_				-		
Approve					Dis	sapp	rove			

Attachments

Tab A - Friedersdorf Memo to Simon and O'Brien
Tab B - Congressional ltr to the Pres of May 10, 1985

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Dear Senator:

The President has asked that I respond to your letter of May 10 in which you and your colleagues expressed your concern regarding the continuing captivity of 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. This is also the view of the intermediaries with whom we have been working.

As you know, our policy is that we do not give in to terrorist demands, and we do not urge others to do so. This would only encourage further terrorist acts against the international community. The United States will not allow itself to be intimidated by terrorist threats or permit such threats to compromise our fundamental policies and values.

This does not mean, however, that we are unwilling to talk. In all of our contacts on these kidnappings, we have stressed our interest in maintaining open lines of communication. Their principal and continuing demand has been the release of the Dawa Party prisoners in Kuwait, a demand the Kuwaitis have consistently rejected. As you may recall, the 17 Dawa prisoners being held by the Kuwaiti Government have been legally convicted of grave terrorist acts including lethal bombing attacks on the U.S. and French Embassies and Kuwaiti installations in December 1983. Six persons died as a result of these attacks and more than 80 were

injured. We supported the Kuwaiti Government decision in December 1984 not to release the Dawa prisoners when this was the demand of those who had hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner and murdered two United States Government officials.

Unfortunately, the terrorists are playing on the natural concern and sympathies of the families. This is as cynical and cruel as their taking the hostages in the first place. It is all too easy in such a situation to blame ourselves for being victimized by terrorists.

The President clearly appreciates what an ordeal this is for the families, whose anxiety and frustration we share. We realize that until the captives are released no explanation will seem adequate. Nevertheless, let me assure you that we will continue our intensive efforts on behalf of the captive Americans. I have addressed a similar letter to Congressman George O'Brien.

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf Assistant to the President

The Honorable Paul Simon United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Congressman:

The President has asked that I respond to your letter of May 10 in which you and your colleagues expressed your concern regarding the continuing captivity of U.S. citizens in Lebanon.

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Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf Assistant to the President

The Honorable George M. O'Brien House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

United States Smatt

WASHINGTON, DC 20810

May 10, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to express our deep concern for the safety and welfare of William Buckley, the Reverend Benjamin Weir, Peter Kilburn, Father Lawrence Martin Jenco and Terry Anderson, the five U.S. citizens who are being held hostage in Lebanon.

We know that the Department of State has been working through various channels to secure the hostages' release. While we recognize the process is a delicate one, we urge you to direct the Department to redouble its efforts and to become personally involved in efforts to obtain the hostages' release. Recent events in Lebanon make our request more urgent.

The families of these men anxiously hope and wait for news of their safe release. We would greatly appreciate your ensuring that all possible means to achieve this end are exhausted.

Cordially,

Paul Simon U.S. Senator

Alan Cranston U.S. Senator

Jan Millen

George M. O'Brien Member of Congress

Norman I. Mineta Member of Congress

Robert C. Burd

Partieson

Pete Wilson U. S. Senator

Alap J. Dixon

U. S. Senator

John Glenn

John H. Glenn, Jr. U. S. Senator

J. Bennett Johnston

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Dale Bumpers U. S. Senator

David Boren U. S. Senator

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Max Baucus U. S. Senator

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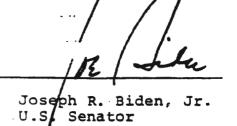
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS

*X-INTERIM REPLY



S/S 8515489 United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 24, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject:

Proposed Response to Congressional Correspondence on

the American Hostages

Senator Paul Simon and 204 other House and Senate members have cosigned a May 10 letter to President Reagan (Tab 2) urging that he become personally involved in efforts to obtain the release of the Americans kidnapped in Lebanon and that the Department of State redouble its efforts on behalf of the hostages. Attached at Tab 1 is a proposed draft response. You may want to address your reply to representatives of both Houses of Congress, preferably to Congressman O'Brien as well as Senator Simon, both of whom have actively followed the hostage issue and have hostage family members among their constituents.

Nicholas Platt Executive Secretary

Attachments:

Tab 1: Proposed Reply

Tab 2: Incoming Correspondence

Dear Senator Simon/Mr. O'Brien:

Thank you for the letter of May 10 which you and your colleagues forwarded to President Reagan regarding the continuing captivity of U.S. citizens in Lebanon. I have been asked to respond on the President's behalf.

President Reagan is extremely concerned about the terrorist attacks on Americans in Lebanon and the fate of the five Americans who were abducted in Beirut. This is a problem in which he takes a deep personal interest. 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 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 return of the five missing Americans. Intensive 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. This is also the view of the intermediaries with whom we have been working.

As you know, our policy is that we do not give in to terrorist demands, and we do not urge others to do so. This would only encourage further terrorist acts against the international community. The United States will not allow itself to be intimidated by terrorist threats or permit such threats to compromise our fundamental policies and values.

This does not mean, however, that we are unwilling to talk. In all of our contacts on these kidnappings, we have stressed our interest in maintaining open lines of communication. Although the kidnappers have shown no interest in a dialogue with the U.S. government, we continue to look for any evolution in their attitudes.

Their principal and continuing demand has been the release of the Dawa Party prisoners in Kuwait, a demand the Kuwaitis have consistently rejected. As you may recall, the 17 Dawa prisoners being held by the Kuwaiti government have been legally convicted of grave terrorist acts including lethal bombing attacks on the U.S. and French Embassies and Kuwaiti installations in December 1983. Six persons died as a result of these attacks and more than 80 people were injured. Indeed,

we rightly applauded the Kuwaiti government decision in December 1984 not to release the Dawa prisoners when this was the demand of those who had hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner and murdered two United States Government officials.

Unfortunately, the terrorists are playing on the natural concern and sympathies of the families. This is as cynical and cruel as their taking the hostages in the first place. It is all too easy in such a situation to blame ourselves for being victimized by terrorists.

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

Sincerely,

Received 5/17

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NSE CA and M/CTP. Include include todays W.

May 17, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR:

WILL BALL

Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations Department of State

FROM:

KATHY RATTE JAFFKE TO Director, Congressional Correspondence

SUBJECT:

American Hostages in Lebanon

The attached letter, dated May 10, is signed by 205 House and Senate Members expressing concern for the safety of five Americans being held hostage in Lebanon.

Because the situation has been in a state of flux over the last few days and since this letter was apparently released to the press yesterday, I would appreciate your assistance in coordinating a draft response for B. Oglesby's signature.

I am omitting an interim due to the number of cosigners and the need to provide a prompt response.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

cc: NSC Secretariat - FYI

cc: Records Management - FYI

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 17, 1985

ACTION

SIGNED

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

Congressional 1tr to the President regarding

Safety of U.S. Hostages in Lebanon

Attached at Tab I is a memo from you to Max Friedersdorf requesting that he sign and forward the letters to Senator Paul Simon and Congressman George O'Brien attached at Tab A. These letters respond to a letter written to the President on May 10, 1985 from 205 Congressional members regarding efforts to recover the Americans taken hostage in Beirut (Tab B).

The suggested State Department draft response is attached at Tab II. The original package #3987 forwarded to you on May 28 is attached at Tab III.

Ron Sable concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you initial and forward your memo to Max Friedersdorf at Tab I with Tabs A and B attached.

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Approve	•	Disapprove	
T. T		<u> </u>	

Attachments

Tab I - McFarlane Memo to Friedersdorf

Tab A - Friedersdorf ltrs to Simon and O'Brien Tab B - Congressional ltr to the Pres of May 10

Tab II - Platt Memo to McFarlane of May 24, 1985

Tab III - Original Package #3987 of May 28, 1985

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 28, 1985

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

Congressional ltr to the President regarding

Safety of U.S. Hostages in Lebanon

Attached at Tab I is a letter from you to Senator Paul Simon and Congressman George O'Brien regarding efforts to recover the Americans taken hostage in Beirut. Your letter responds to a letter to the President dated May 10, 1985 from 205 Congressional members on this matter (Tab II).

State Department agrees that it would be more appropriate to have you respond than B. Oglesby as was initially proposed in their draft response (Tab III).

Akon Sable concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the two letters at Tab I.

7 22222	Disapprove	
Approve	DISAPPIOVE	

Attachments

Tab I - McFarlane letters to Simon and O'Brien

Tab II - Platt Memo to McFarlane of May 24, 1985

Tab III - Congressional ltr to the President of May 10, 1985