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Folder Title: [TWA 847 Hijacking

June 1985-July 1985] (5 of 8)

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Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name POINDEXTER, JOHN: FILES

Withdrawer

CAS

7/25/2007

File Folder

[TWA HIJACKING JUNE 1985-JULY 1985] (5)

FOIA

F1792

Box Number 2

BATTLE

			29	
ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
39152 CABLE	282306Z JUN 85	3	6/28/1985	B1
39154 FAX COVER SHEET		1	6/28/1985	B1
39156 CABLE	282316Z JUN 85	1	6/28/1985	B1
39157 CABLE	290345Z JUN 85	4	6/29/1985	B1
39159 DRAFT CABLE	DRAFT OF 39157	3	6/28/1985	B1
39161 CABLE	290105Z JUN 85	3	6/29/1985	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]

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ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
39168 DRAFT LETTER	REAGAN TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD	2	ND	B1
39170 CABLE	292234Z JUN 85 (INCLUDES POST-IT- NOTE ON 2ND PAGE)	2	6/29/1985	B1
39172 CABLE	301144Z JUN 85	2	6/30/1985	B1

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39152 CABLE 3 6/28/1985 B1

282306Z JUN 85

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39154 FAX COVER SHEET 1 6/28/1985 B1

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39156 CABLE 1 6/28/1985 B1

282316Z JUN 85

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39157 CABLE 4 6/29/1985 B1

290345Z JUN 85

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Restrictions

39159 DRAFT CABLE

3 6/28/1985

B1

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39161 CABLE 3 6/29/1985 B1

290105Z JUN 85

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Talking Points White House will use to Notify Senators Dole & Byrd, Congressmen O'Neil & Michel at 0700 EDT, 29 June 1985

At 0300 EDT this morning the 39 TWA hostages left Beirut by truck enroute to Damascus. There was a Syrian military escort. The hostages should be arriving in Damascus right about now. We expect the Syrians to turn them over to us in about two hours after they have rested at the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus. The U.S. will then receive the hostages and fly (not certain whether military A/C or not, check in AM) them to Frankfurt, FRG where a reception team from USG will meet them for onward processing. No definite arrangements have been made for their return to US but will be done as rapidly as possible.

The President will make a statement at 0900 this morning as the hostages leave Damascus. Unfortunately, the other seven American hostages have not been returned yet. The President will address this and the continuing efforts to free them. We need to keep the pressure on to get them back.

We'll have more details for you later.

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39168 DRAFT LETTER

2 ND

B1

REAGAN TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD

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INTERIM STATEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS

We have been in contact with the Government of Syria regarding the movement of the ____ Americans from Beirut to Damascus. The Syrian government confirms that our people are now in Damascus. We expect the Government of Syria to facilitate their onward travel as rapidly as possible.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

CONTIGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE: UPON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

- Q. Was the release of the hostages part of a deal? Did we give guarantees that the prisoners held by Israel would be released?
- A: --We gave no guarantees and made no concessions, nor did we urge others to do so. This is a firm policy which we shall continue to respect.

DECLASSIFIED

White House Guidelines, August/28, 1997

White House Guidelines, August 28,

- Q. What do we expect Israel will do now with the prisoners it is holding?
- A: --Israel's policy on returning its prisoners to Lebanon is a matter of record. Israel has stated that its policy is to release the prisoners as the security situation permits in South Lebanon.

- Q: Have we suggested to the Israelis that they release their prisoners?
- A: --Our position is clear; there is no linkage between the two matters. We have not made deals nor did we urge other to do so. Israel's policy for the release of the prisoners predates the hijacking. They have said they would do so as a function of the security situation in southern Lebanon.

Q: Can you comment on the Israeli television report that Israel and the U.S. reached an understanding that Israel will release its 737 Lebanese prisoners only after the 39 American hostages are released? Wasn't there a linkage?

A: -- The GOI formally denied the report to which you refer.

- Q: If there was no deal of linkage, then why do you think the hostages are being released? What were the key elements?
- A: --We think there finally was a recognition that the U.S. patience was not unlimited and that America will make deals with terrorists. Also, there was growing outrage of this act of terrorism by nations around the world, including Arab states. We were in touch with a number of parties and countries, including Algeria and Syria, and we think these efforts on a number of fronts all helped.
 - --The Administration is determined to do everything possible to bring an end to such terrorist acts, which are a threat to the entire international community. The U.S. will continue to work to help eradicate this menace to civilized behavior and we call upon the international community to cooperate fully in this effort.

- Q. Now that the prisoners are being released, is the U.S. going to retaliate for the hijacking?
- A. -- This is not the time or place to comment on that. There is a general recognition however that steps must be taken to get to the root of terrorism. There is also a growing recognition that Beirut airport should not remain a safe haven for aircraft pirates who prey upon civil aviation in the entire region.

وروجي

- Q. What are we doing about the seven Americans who were kidnapped earlier in Lebanon?
- A: --They have not been forgotten. We are continuing to work for the release and again call upon the kidnappers to release them. The kidnappings of these Americans and nationals of other nations are acts of terrorism which not only fail to gain sympathy for the cause of the perpetrators but are criminal acts which deserve the condemnation of the entire international community.



PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

Good morning. The 39 Americans held hostage for 14 days by terrorists in Lebanon are free, safe, and at this moment, on their way to Frankfurt, Germany. They will be home again soon.

This is a moment of joy for them, for their loved ones, and for our nation—and America opens its heart in a prayer of thanks to Almighty God. We can be thankful that our faith, courage and firmness have paid off. But this is no moment for celebration. Let it be clearly understood:

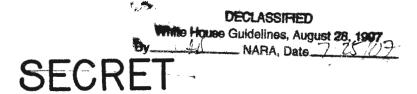
that the seven Americans still held captive in Lebanon must be released, along with other innocent hostages from other countries;

that the murderers of Robert Stethem--and of our Marines in El Salvador--must be held accountable;

that those responsible for the barbaric terrorist acts throughout the world must be taken on by civilized nations;

that the international community must ensure that all our airports are safe and that civil air travel is safeguarded; and

SECRET Declassify on: OADR





2

that the world must unite in taking decisive action against terrorists, against nations that sponsor terrorists, and against nations that give terrorists safe haven.

This drama has reminded us how precious and fragile are the freedoms and standards of decency of civilized societies, how greatly civilized life depends on trust in other human beings, but how those values we hold most dear must also be defended with bravery—a bravery that may lay quiet and deep, but that will rise to answer our call in every time of peril.

Freedom, democracy and peace have enemies; they must also have steadfast friends.

The United States gives terrorists no rewards and no guarantees. We make no concessions; we make no deals. Terrorists be on notice: we will fight back against you, in Lebanon and elsewhere; we will fight back against your cowardly attacks on American citizens and property.

Several countries have been actively involved in efforts to free our fellow citizens. Syria has had a central responsibility.

The efforts of the Algerian Government were likewise an example of constructive cooperation against the direct challenge of





3

lawless terrorists. Throughout the past 14 days, we have also been in close touch with Israel and a number of governments in Europe and the Middle East, as well as with international organizations, all of whom displayed great concern for the safety and release of the hostages. We will remember all who helped us and who stood with us; and, yes, we will remember those who did not.

We will not rest until justice is done. We will not rest until the world community meets its responsibility:

We call upon those who helped secure the release of these TWA passengers to show even greater energy and commitment to secure the release of all others held captive in Lebanon.

We call upon the world community to put Beirut International
Airport off limits until that airport demonstrates to the world
that it has put terrorists off limits.

And, we call upon the world community to strengthen its cooperation to stamp out this ugly, vicious evil.

Thank you.







National Security Council The White House

System # ______Package #

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Bob Pearson			
William Martin	-	- 01	
John Poindexter		#	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Paul Thompson			
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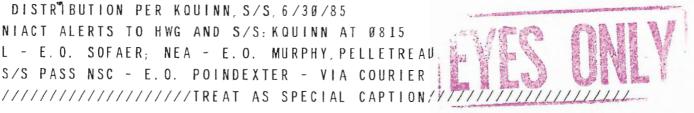
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INFO SWO-01 SSO-01 SSS-01 SSI-01 SS-04 S-02 D-01 P-01 NEA-01

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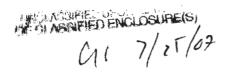
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