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CAS 3/29/2016

FOIA

M481

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
174344	MEMO	NICHOLAS PLATT TO MCFARLANE RE TWA HIJACKING - STATUS REPORT D 5/23/2000 F97-046 #26; R 2/25/2019 M481 #174344	2	6/26/1985	B1

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RECEIVED 27 JUN 85 14

TO

MCFARLANE

FROM PLATT, N

DOC DATE 26 JUN 85

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM

HIJACKING

LEBANON

SUBJECT: TWA HIJACKING STATUS RPT

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES

DUE:

STATUS C

FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

POINDEXTER

NORTH

MARTIN

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COMMENTS

REF#

LOG 8590709

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NSCIFID

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ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

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DISPATCH

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FILE

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174344
United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520 SYSTEM II
90720

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

June 26, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: TWA Hijacking

Proposal for Transfer of Hostages to a Western Embassy

Barri publicly proposed transfer of the hostages to a western embassy in West Beirut, such as the French or Swiss Embassy, provided the government concerned would pledge not to release the hostages unless the Lebanese prisoners in Israel are freed. France, Switzerland, Italy and Austria have been in touch with us about this proposal. All appear cautious, although the Italians have instructed their Ambassador to be ready to receive the hostages if Barri should move to do so.

Israeli Policy

There continue to be press reports of preparations in Israel for a further release of prisoners, although Israeli Coordinator for South Lebanon told Embassy Tel Aviv June 25 that no further releases were imminent. Rabin said June 26 "The army has from time to time released groups of people, and it is our intention to continue this policy in the future according to cabinet decisions. The final aim is that no Lebanese prisoners will be left in Israel." Embassy Tel Aviv has commented in an analysis predating the Rabin statement that Israel officials are formulating their reaction to the hijacking based on three objectives which may prove contradictory over time: 1) limiting damage to the U.S. relationship or at least to Israel's image in the U.S.; 2) maintaining a credible anti-terrorism policy, especially in the wake of the May POW exchange, and 3) maintaining prospects for working out adequate security arrangements in southern Lebanon. All options carry risks which could contribute to the collapse of the Peres Government, which is concerned about the lack of coordination with the U.S.

Syrian Reaction

Syrian Chief of Staff General Shihabi told our Defense Attache January 26 that Syria was very concerned about USG statements

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NLRRM481/1 #174344
BY RW NARA DATE 2/25/19



~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. T. C. MCRAE
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Two Hijackings

Proposal for Transfer of Hostages in a Western Embassy

Will publicly proposed transfer of the hostages in a western embassy in West Beirut, such as the French or Swiss Embassy, provided the government concerned would pledge not to release the hostages unless the Lebanese government in Beirut is freed. France, Switzerland, Italy and Austria have been in touch with us about this proposal. All appear cautious, although the Israelis have indicated their readiness to be ready to receive the hostages if they should move to do so.

Israeli Policy

There continues to be great tension of circumstances in Israel for a further release of prisoners, which is Israel's coordinated for South Lebanon hold hostage for June 12. That no further releases were imminent. Again said June 12 "The army has been able to time released groups of people, and it is not intention to continue this policy in the future according to cabinet decision. The final will be that no released prisoners will be left in Israel." Embassy Tel Aviv has commented in an analysis regarding the main statement that Israeli officials are formulating their reaction to the ongoing broad on their objectives which may prove contradictory over time. It is noted damage to the U.S. relationship as it leads to Israel's image in the U.S. is maintaining a credible anti-terrorism policy, especially in the wake of the May 1982 exchange, and (2) maintaining prospects for meeting out adequate security arrangements in southern Lebanon. All options carry risks which could contribute to the collapse of the Peace Government, which is concerned about the issue of coordination with the U.S.

System Reaction

System Chief of Staff General Amador told our Defense Secretary January 26 that Syria was very concerned about US operations

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BY WJ NARA DATE 1/27/84

which he described as saying the U.S. intended to take measures against the Arab states it felt were implicated in the TWA incident, including Syria. He stated that such actions would represent unconscionable gratitude in the face of Syria's recent and earnest efforts. The Syrian Government, he said, considered itself obligated to assist in obtaining the release of the hostages and had been in frequent contact with Barri to urge immediate resolution.

International Pressure

The Arab League headquarters in Tunis has informed us that its Secretary General made a public statement condemning the hijacking in an interview with Beirut newspaper As-Safir. The Italian Foreign Ministry released a press statement June 25 concerning the demarche made by the Italian Ambassador to Barri on behalf of the European Community, in which the ten "expressed condemnation without reserve of the airplane hijacking and the detention of the hostages," and called for their prompt release. The British demarche to Barri yesterday, on which we now have a readout, emphasized U.S. determination not to give in to the hijackers' demands, and the need to resolve the crisis fast. Barri replied to both the British and the Italians that he had involved himself out of humanitarian motives.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has received from the ICRC a list of the hostages visited by the ICRC yesterday and will be initiating contacts with their families. The ARC will serve as liaison between the ICRC and the families, forwarding first the signature forms signed by the hostages yesterday, and later messages to the families when they are received.

Bomckinley
for Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary