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Collection Name EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: SYSTEM I FILES

Withdrawer

(RAC)

CAS 3/29/2016

File Folder

8590720

FOIA

M481

Box Number

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

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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B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

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UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

M37 4/28/49 RECEIVED 27 JUN 85 14

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DISPATCH

MCFARLANE

FROM PLATT, N

DOCDATE 26 JUN 85

W/ATTCH FILE (C)

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM

HIJACKING

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SUBJECT: TWA HIJACKING STATUS RPT

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES DUE: STATUS C FILES FOR ACTION FOR CONCURRENCE FOR INFO MCFARLANE POINDEXTER NORTH MARTIN COVEY COMMENTS LOG 8590709 8590710 NSCIFID REF# (B/B) ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

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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SUBJECT: TWA ULINGHIES

Proposal for Transfer of Bortages to A Welters Schooley

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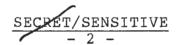
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which he described as saying the U.S. intended to take measures against the Arab states it felt were implicated in the TWA incident, including Syria. He stated that such actions would represent unconscionable gratitude in the face of Syria's recent 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.

Nicholas Platt DExecutive Secretary

SECRET