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**Collection:** Executive Secretariat, NSC: System File: Records,  
1981-1989

**SERIES:** I: SYSTEM I

**Folder Title:** 8504868 – Survey of Israeli Government  
Statements on Ansar Prisoners

**Box:** 28

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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection:** EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: Records  
System File

**Archivist:** mjd

**File Folder:** 8504868

**Date:** 4/29/99

| DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                         | DATE               | RESTRICTION      |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. paper<br>(8504868) | re: Israeli statements, 3p<br><i>P 5/22/00 NLSF 97-046 #2</i>         | nd                 | P1/F1            |
| <del>2. memo</del>    | Nicholas Platt to Robert McFarlane re. request, 1p<br><i>R ? 1 #3</i> | <del>6/17/85</del> | <del>P1/F1</del> |

### RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

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

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

NSC/S PROFILE

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ID 8504668

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF  
CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

RECEIVED 17 JUN 85 19

TO

MC FARLANE

FROM PLATT, N

DOC DATE 17 JUN 85

KEYWORDS: ISRAEL

HIJACKING

URGENT

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SURVEY OF ISRAELI GOVT STATEMENTS ON ANSAR PRISONERS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE

DUE: 18 JUN 85 STATUS S

FILES PA

STL

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COVEY

NORTH

TEICHER

COMMENTS

Please have Secretariat  
return to State for comprehensive  
update. This is unsatisfactory  
H/V

REF# 8517770

LOG

NSC IFID

( JF CM )

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

C 6/18 See 8590679 for action & file

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

(C)

National Security Council  
The White House

System # \_\_\_\_\_

Package # \_\_\_\_\_

|                 | SEQUENCE TO | HAS SEEN | DISPOSITION       |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|
| Bob Pearson     | <u>1</u>    | <u>P</u> |                   |
| Bob Kimmitt     |             |          |                   |
| John Poindexter |             |          |                   |
| Paul Thompson   |             |          |                   |
| Wilma Hall      |             |          |                   |
| Bud McFarlane   |             |          |                   |
| Bob Kimmitt     |             |          |                   |
| NSC Secretariat | <u>2</u>    |          | <u>staff ASAP</u> |
| Situation Room  |             |          |                   |

I = Information

A = Action

R = Retain

D = Dispatch

N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Date/Time)

Action: Corey  
Comment: North  
Piercher

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

4868

June 18, 1985

UNCLASSIFIED/WITH  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ATTACHMENT

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: HOWARD R. TEICHER *WRT*

SUBJECT: Summary of Israeli Government Statements on  
Ansar Prisoners

Attached at Tab I for your signature is a memo to the NSPG  
principals forwarding the subject report (Tab A).

*JK* Jack Covey and Ollie North concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

Tab I Memo to NSPG Principals

Tab A Summary of Israeli government statements re  
Ansar prisoners

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*WSP  
4/26/89*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

4868

UNCLASSIFIED/WITH  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ATTACHMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH  
The Vice President

THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ  
The Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE JAMES A. BAKER, III  
The Secretary of the Treasury

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER  
The Secretary of Defense

THE HONORABLE EDWIN MEESE III  
The Attorney General

GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY  
Director of Central Intelligence

As a result of an NSPG tasking, the Department of State prepared the attached survey of Israeli government statements on Ansar prisoners. This report is forwarded for your information.

Attachment  
As Stated

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4/28/44

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Israeli Statements on Transfer of Ex-Ansar Prisoners to Israel

Summary

Public Statements: On April 2, the IDF released a large number of detainees from the Ansar camp near Nabatiye in south Lebanon, as the IDF prepared to evacuate that area. At the same time, it began the transfer of 1167 detainees, which it described as more dangerous than those released, from Ansar to the Atlit prison, near Haifa, in Israel. GOI spokesmen explained the action as necessary to ensure continued security in southern Lebanon while the IDF completed its withdrawal. They said the detainees would be held temporarily in Israel until the security situation in south Lebanon permitted their return. So far the Israelis have released 468 of the prisoners.

At the time of the TWA hijacking June 14, Defense Ministry spokesman Nachman Shai told the New York Times that the prisoners were moved to Israel to maintain security during the IDF's withdrawal, that their detention in Israel was temporary and that the GOI was committed to return them to Lebanon when the security situation permitted.

On several occasions, IDF spokesman said the ex-Ansar detainees would be treated in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, although they denied its applicability. (At the time of the transfer of the prisoners, the State Department spokesman stated in response to a question that the U.S. believes the Fourth Geneva Convention was applicable to Israeli activities in Lebanon and that the transport of the detainees to Israel was inconsistent with the Convention.) The IDF also said the ICRC would have access to the detainees at Atlit, as it had at Ansar.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

CTED

REDACTED

CONFIDENTIAL

DECL: OADR

F97-046 #2  
MTH 8/23/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

~~REDACTED~~

~~REDACTED~~

~~CTED~~

~~REDACTED~~

~~REDACTED~~

#### Israeli Statements

IDF Chief of Staff Levy told the press April 2 that the detainees were being taken to Israel because "we do not want the detainees remaining in Ansar to force us to redeploy there and stay in Lebanon which is what most of the detainees would like us to do."

On April 2, the Israeli Mission to the UN issued a statement saying that the transport to and detention of the ex-Ansar prisoners in Israel was "temporary".

A Ministry of Defense official told us in confidence April 2 that the prisoners would be released "in about a month".

The IDF issued a background paper April 3 which announced that the IDF's "long term" goal was to release the Ansar detainees, but that for the time being a large segment of them would be "temporarily" transferred to a detention facility in Israel. The spokesman explained that this was being done "to prevent an immediate threat to IDF soldiers still deployed in Lebanon."

A later IDF press bulletin explained that these prisoners would be a threat to IDF troops and Lebanese citizens if they were released "at this time" since they "took an active part in terrorist activities." There was no facility in Lebanon where the ex-Ansar detainees could be lodged during the final stage of the IDF's withdrawal. Therefore, they would be "temporarily" held in Israel. The bulletin concluded that "The IDF will release the detainees in accordance with developments

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-3-

in South Lebanon as IDF forces withdraw from Lebanon." IDF officials were also quoted in the press as saying that the detainees would be returned to Lebanon when their villages were "quiet" and "when the security situation warrants."

On April 11, the IDF released thirty ex-Ansar detainees from Israel. Minister of Defense Rabin denied that the IDF would transfer the remainder of the detainees in Israel to a new facility in Lebanon.

On April 18, IDF sources announced that the IDF had released 37 of the ex-Ansar detainees held in Israel. They said the IDF "was continuing a policy whereby the Ansar detainees who were temporarily transferred to Israel are being released according to the stages of the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon."

On May 20, 150 ex-Ansar detainees were released as part of a larger exchange of 1150 prisoners and terrorists in Israel for three Israeli soldiers held captive by Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-GC.

On May 29 another 249 prisoners were released at the request of AMAL leadership who appealed to the GOI because of their desperate need for manpower.

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WASHFAX RECEIPT  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT

85 JUN 17 PM

B

S/S # 8517770

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF  
CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

W-SD  
VILG/144

RECEIVED

35 JUL 17 P 2: 00

MESSAGE NO. 001215 CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL No. Pages 4  
FROM: KQuinn S/S 28448 7224  
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION Platt-McFarlane: Request for Survey of Israeli  
Government Statements on the Ansar Prisoners

TO: (Agency)

NSC

DELIVER TO:

Bob Pearson

Extension

395-3044

Room No.

NSC

FOR CLEARANCE ☐ INFORMATION ☒ PER REQUEST ☐ COMMENT ☐

REMARKS: PLEASE DELIVER URGENTLY TO ADDRESSEE. ADVANCE COPY --

ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW VIA COURIER.

S/S Officer: KLQ (SS)

CROSSHATCH



S/S 8517770

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

4868

June 17, 1985

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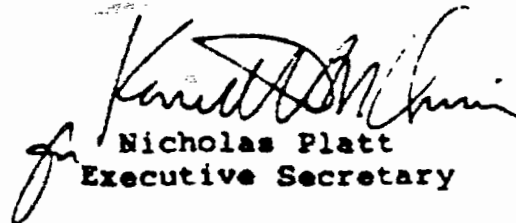
MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE  
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Request for Survey of Israeli Government Statements  
on the Ansar Prisoners

In response to the request from the NSPG on the continuing TWA hijacking for a survey of GOI public and private statements on the Ansar prisoners, attached is a summary review of Israeli statements and a chronology of those we have monitored.

Attachment:

As stated above.

  
Nicholas Platt  
Executive Secretary

DECLASSIFIED  
NLS F97-046 #3  
BY MSH NARA DATE 5/22/06

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
DECL: OADR