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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REVIEW BOARD
(TOWER BOARD): Records
File Folder: SRB 378 TWA 847 (9) Box 93207

Archivist: mjd
FOIA ID: F97-059/2
Date: 09/21/1999

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. summary of events	re: TWA 847, 7p <i>P 3/21/06 F97-059/2 #88</i>	7/1/85	P1/F1
2. chronology	re: TWA 847, 20p <i>P 3/29/18 F97-059/2 #89</i>	6/14/85	P1/F1
3. memo	Howard Teicher to Robert McFarlane re: Hostage Crisis, 1p <i>D 3/21/06 F97-059/2 #90</i>	6/19/85	P1/F1
4. NSC profile sheet	1p <i>R 3/21/06 F97-059/2 #91</i>	6/22/85	P1/F1
5. memo	William Martin to Nicholas Platt re: demarche, 1p <i>R 4 11 #92</i>	6/24/85	P1/F1
6. draft demarche	1p <i>R 4 11 #93</i>	nd	P1/F1
7. memo	Teicher to Martin re: demarche, 1p <i>R 4 11 #94</i>	6/24/85	P1/F1
8. memo	Donald Fortier/Teicher to McFarlane re: demarche, 2p <i>R 4 11 #95</i>	6/21/85	P1/F1
9. memo	McFarlane to the President re: alternative solutions, 1p <i>R 4 11 #96</i>	6/20/85	P1/F1
10. memo	Oliver North/Teicher to McFarlane re: talking points, 1p <i>R 4 11 #97</i>	6/18/85	P1/F1
11. talking points	re: TWA 847, 3p <i>P 3/21/06 F97-059/2 #98</i>	6/18/85	P1/F1
12. talking points	text same as item 11, 3p <i>P 3/21/06 F97-059/2 #97</i>	6/18/85	P1/F1

RESTRICTIONS

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.

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].

PENDING REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH E.O. 13233

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REVIEW BOARD (TOWER BOARD): RECORDS

Withdrawer

LOJ 4/23/2007

File Folder SRB 378 TWA 847 (9)

FOIA

F97-059/2

Box Number 93207

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date
8	MEMO	FORTIER/TEICHER TO MCFARLANE, RE APPROACHING THE SOVIETS RE THE SYRIAN ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE HOSTAGE SITUATION	2	6/21/1985
		mv14 3/6/08		
9	MEMO	MCFARLANE TO THE PRESIDENT, RE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE BEIRUT HOSTAGE SITUATION	1	6/20/1985
		mv14 3/6/08		
11	TALKING POINTS	CURRENT SITUATION 2030, JUNE 18, 1985 HIJACKING OF TWA #847	3	ND
		mv14 3/6/08		
12	TALKING POINTS	CURRENT SITUATION 2030, JUNE 18, 1985 HIJACKING OF TWA #847	3	ND
		mv14 3/6/08		

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- Hijackers add demand for U.S. \$15 million, and ask to talk to U.S. Ambassador.
- U.S. urges GOL not to allow aircraft to return to Beirut, and urges governments of Syria and Cyprus to accept the aircraft if diverted from Beirut.
- U.S. demarche to Syria: Do not allow Lebanese to return aircraft to Beirut -- allow landing in Syria if asked.
- At 1525, departs again for Beirut, landing at 1920. Robert Stethem is killed and his body thrown onto the tarmac.
- Hijackers demand that ranking Amal official come to the airport. Demand eventually granted.
- About a dozen heavily armed men, probably Hizballah and Amal militia, board the plane and take control from the original hijackers.
- Hijackers demand release of all Arab prisoners in Lebanon, complete withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon, withdrawal of Lahad's forces from Lebanon. They reiterate demand for release of Ali Atwah (third hijacker, in Greek custody) and threaten to kill eight Greek passengers if he isn't. They also demand release of three others by name.
- American jews and U.S. military are singled out, and 12 passengers are taken off the plane, including all six (seven) U.S. military.
- Plane departs Beirut at 2240.
- Presidential message to Algiers requesting they allow aircraft to land and not take off again.
- Presidential message to Assad urging he contact Iranian/Shia leaders to influence hijackers to release prisoners to Algerian authorities.

Saturday, 15 June; Day 2

- Plane arrives in Algiers at 0250. ICRC sends team to Algiers at request of U.S. and Algerian governments.
- ICRC and Algerian officials are permitted to board the aircraft to check the health of the hostages and hear the demands of the hijackers.
- Hijackers demand release of all Arab prisoners from Israeli jails, and complete, immediate, Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territories; threaten to kill all passengers if Ali Atwah not released.

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- Sixty-one passengers and all five flight attendants are released.
- [REDACTED] FOIA(b) (1)
- Israelis announce intention to gradually release prisoners -- depending on security situation. Sooner or later, all are to be released.
- Presidential message to Algerian President Bendjedid requesting he keep aircraft in Algiers.

Sunday, 16 June; Day 3

- After twenty-five hours in Algiers, the plane departs, again for Beirut, landing at about 0745.
- Secure telephone consultations are held among McFarlane, Shultz, and Weinberger.
- The President chairs an NSPG at 1300. Reaffirms basic policy not to negotiate... [REDACTED] FOIA(b) (1)
[REDACTED].. Hold Amal responsible.
- Remaining 29 passengers are removed from plane; three flight crewmen remain onboard with unknown number of hijackers.
- Amal leader Nabih Berri enters negotiations. He releases one hostage (Peel).

Monday, 17 June; Day 4

- McFarlane to Berri (30 minute phone conversation): U.S. will not make concessions or ask anyone else to do so... will hold Shia community responsible if passengers harmed... future of Shia will be determined by responsible behavior... Al Dawa prisoner release request creates contest of wills which U.S./Israel will not concede.
- ICRC meets with Israeli officials... ready to facilitate release of ex-Ansar prisoners... will not be party to negotiations.
- Secretary Shulttz says, "we call upon those holding the hostages to treat them properly and release them immediately. We will not make deals with terrorists and will not encourage others to do so."

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Tuesday, 18 June; Day 5

- Berri releases three more hostages, leaving 40 still in custody, all believed to be Americans.
- TIWG meeting at 1400.
- U.S. demarche to Algiers, Jordan, France, UK, Spain, Saudi Arabia, FRG, Austria, UN: U.S. holds Berri responsible... will not negotiate... request they use good offices to influence Berri and other political and religious leaders to effect release.
- U.S. demarche to Greece: improve airport security... travel advisory to be issued.
- U.S. demarche to Berri: the U.S. understands aircraft is refueled and loaded with explosives, and expects Berri to control the aircraft.
- Presidential message to Assad: increase pressure on Berri to be tough with hijackers... use own channels with PSP, Hizballah, Iranians... release passengers quickly and transfer out of Lebanon.

Wednesday, 19 June; Day 6

- SECSTATE message to Gemayel looking to him for help.
- U.S. requests ICRC to see the hostages and check their welfare.
- Terrorists in San Salvador kill 15, including four unarmed, off-duty U.S. Marines and two U.S. businessmen.

Thursday, 20 June; Day 7

- NSPG meeting at 1000.
- Austria offers to assist.

Friday, 21 June; Day 8

- U.S. requests ICAO, WTO, UNHR Center to publicly condemn hijacking and urge immediate release of hostages.
- U.S. proposes release scenarios to Berri: release to Syria, Algiers, UN, ICRC... avoid release in Beirut.
- Japan approaches Iran and Syria... Iran denies responsibility, blames Syria.
- U.S. message to world requesting improvements in airport security.
- President meets with hostage families in Dallas.

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Saturday, 22 June; Day 9

- U.S. message to Iran: Iran cannot escape responsibility for failure to act urgently to help.
- U.S. message to Syria: keep up pressure on Berri... urge Iranians to use their influence.
- In contact with Algerians.

Sunday, 23 June; Day 10

- In contact with Algerians.

Monday, 24 June; Day 11

FOIA(b) (/)

- CPPG meeting to review [REDACTED] and to consider ways to increase pressure.
- Israel releases 31 Lebanese detainees from Atlit prison and, in Beirut, Nabih Berri announces a new demand: that U.S. Navy ships in the area must leave before the hostages can be released.
- The President chairs an NSPG meeting at 1400 and decides to let diplomatic action play out for next several days. Recognizes that real player is Assad and that plan has to be developed accordingly.
- In contact with Algerians.

Tuesday, 25 June; Day 12

- Gemayel message to Shultz: I'm doing what I can... area is not under GOL control.
- Larry Speakes discusses with the Press options the President might consider, including limiting goods and services to Beirut and limiting use of BIA.
- The President chairs an NSPG meeting at 1330, which reviews the Plan of Action to place increasing pressure on Syria to extricate the hostages and to press forward with a campaign against terrorism.
- CPPG meeting at 1600 refines details of the Plan.
- In contact with Syrians.

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Wednesday, 26 June; Day 13

- President chairs an NSPG meeting at 1000 and defers initial steps in the Plan pending diplomatic developments.
- News blackout is declared.
- Another hostage, Jimmy Palmer, is released because of a worsening heart condition.
- Berri reiterates his demand that U.S. warships pull away from the Lebanese coast, and adds a new demand that neither the U.S. nor Israel retaliate once the crisis is resolved.
- Berri announces proposal to transfer all hostages to a Western embassy in Beirut or to Damascus, where they would remain until release of the Atlit detainees.
- In contact with Syrians, Paris.

Thursday, 27 June; Day 14

- Israeli Ambassador to Armacost: there is debate as to status of prisoners under Geneva Convention... asks U.S. not to bring up issue again.
- CPPG meeting at 1000 develops a contingency plan in the event of a partial release of hostages.
- Wide speculation in media about whether hostages will be transferred. Europeans won't accept conditions.
- Shultz's call for release of 46 U.S. hostages (including seven who were missing in Lebanon prior to the TWA hijacking) is widely reported in media as a "new U.S. demand."
- In contact with Syrians, Algerians, Tel Aviv.

Friday, 28 June; Day 15

- CPPG at 1030 recommends implementation of Phase 1 actions to pressure Assad, if no release by this afternoon.
- President chairs an NSPG meeting at 1700 to review diplomatic situation. Confirms plans for extraction of hostages once they are in Syria. Campaign against terrorism to continue at a pace to be determined.
- In contact with Syrians, Algerians, Geneva, Paris, Tel Aviv.

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Saturday, 29 June; Day 16

- U.S. C-141 with reception team departs Washington for Frankfurt. Another C-141 goes to Damascus.
- Hostages released, according to Press, and en route to Syria, although there are conflicting reports on their exact status and location.
- PM Peres, on Jerusalem radio, declares freeing hostages "removes a major obstacle to freeing Lebanese Shiite prisoners"... denies Israel took part in any deal.
- Later reporting, confirmed about 0700, shows hostages still in Beirut and in custody of Amal/Hizballah... Berri apparently seeking more definite guarantee re Atlit detainees and assurance that U.S. will not retaliate.
- The State Department issues the following statement at 2230: "The United States reaffirms its longstanding support for the preservation of Lebanon, its government, its stability and security, and for the mitigation of the suffering of its people." If asked, the spokesman was authorized to say that we are making this statement in order to make our position clear.

Sunday, 30 June; Day 17

- At 0330, Syrian officials in Damascus tell the U.S. Embassy "Syria has solved" the problem that delayed release of the 39 TWA hijacking hostages.
- At 1405, Larry Speakes announces release of the hostages and crossing of the Syria-Lebanon border at 1330.
- Hostages hold a press conference at 1530 in Damascus.
- Wheels up Damascus.
- At 1805, President announces departure from Syria. Shultz follows with press conference.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 30, 1985

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

The Hijacking of TWA Flight 847

All times EDT: Beirut and Damascus and Athens are plus 7 hours;
Algiers plus 5 hours:

Friday, June 14

- Boeing 727 jet departs Athens en route to Rome with 153 people on board, including 129 American passengers, 14 foreign passengers, six American crew members, two foreign crew members and two Lebanese hijackers.
- At about 3:10 a.m., flight is diverted to Beirut, where it lands just before 5:00 a.m. over the protests of Lebanese controllers. Nineteen passengers, 17 women and two children, are released and the aircraft is refueled.
- The President's national security advisers begin a series of secure telephone conference calls which will continue throughout the hijacking situation. Initial interagency meeting scheduled. Task Force organized at State Department.
- Shortly before leaving Beirut for Algiers, 1,800 miles away, at 6:30 a.m., the hijackers list their initial demands, which include release of Lebanese held in Israeli prisons.
- At 10:00 a.m., initial interagency meeting held at White House.
- U.S. requests Algeria to allow plane to land and not depart.
- Plane arrives at 10:30 a.m. and spends several hours in Algiers, where 21 additional passengers are released. The plane is again refueled. Hijackers threaten to execute hostages if aircraft is not permitted to depart.
- U.S. urges government of Lebanon not to allow aircraft to return to Beirut and urges governments of Syria and Cyprus to accept the aircraft if diverted from Beirut.
- At 3:25 p.m., aircraft departs again for Beirut, landing at 7:20 p.m. over Lebanese objections. When requested Amal intermediary does not arrive, Navy Petty Officer Second Class Robert Stethem is shot in the head and murdered. His body is thrown onto tarmac.
- About a dozen heavily armed men, apparently Hizballah and Amal militia, board the plane and take control from the original hijackers.
- Certain passengers are then singled out, and 13 are taken off the plane.

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Friday, June 14 (continued)

- Plane departs Beirut at 10:40 p.m. U.S. requests Algiers to allow aircraft to land and not take off again.
- In high level diplomatic communication, U.S. urges Syria to contact Iranian/Shia leaders to influence hijackers to release prisoners to Algerian authorities.

Saturday, June 15

- TWA plane arrives in Algiers at 2:50 a.m.
- In Algiers, 61 passengers and all five flight attendants are released in stages. International Committee of the Red Cross and Algerian officials are permitted to board the aircraft to check the health of the hostages and hear the demands of the hijackers.
- U.S. requests Algeria to keep aircraft in Algiers.

Sunday, June 16

- After 25 hours, the plane leaves Algiers for Beirut, landing for third time at about 7:45 a.m.
- Secure telephone consultations among the President's national security advisers are followed by the President's early return to White House from Camp David. His scheduled afternoon events are cancelled.
- Upon arrival at the White House from Camp David, President takes questions from the press and says "... we're doing everything we can do, but I'm not going to talk about details, I don't think that would be proper." Asked if he is ruling out military response, he replies: "I'm not going to comment on anything of that kind." Is he still opposed to negotiating with terrorists? "This has always been a position of ours, yes." Asked if he has talked to any government that morning, the President replies: "We've been in contact with the governments of Lebanon and Syria and Israel, but again, I can't go any further in any details."
- At 1:02 p.m., the President enters White House Situation Room to begin a meeting with his national security advisors. In the the meeting the President reaffirms basic policy not to negotiate; focuses attention on Amal, which now has claimed responsibility for the safety of the hostages. Meeting ends at 2:15 p.m.
- Remaining 29 passengers removed from plane. Three flight crewmen remain onboard with unknown number of hijackers.
- Amal leader Berri enters discussions for first time. Berri frees hostage Robert Peel, Sr.

Monday, June 17

- In early morning hours, National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane makes 30-minute phone call to Amal leader Berri; tells him U.S. will not make concessions or ask anyone else to do so.
- Secretary Shultz makes statement at noon briefing: "We call upon those holding the hostages to treat them properly and to release them immediately ... we will not make deals with terrorists and will not encourage others to do so."

Monday, June 17 (continued)

- At 1:00 p.m. press briefing, Principal Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes confirms McFarlane/Berri phone call. Says "we have made it plain what we want Berri to do, and that is to use his influence to resolve this situation. We believe he's capable of doing that. We believe he is the key to the solution there and if he wishes to step forward and take that leadership role and use his influence, then we think it could go a long way toward resolving the problems involved -- the complex problems involved in this situation, perhaps including the releases of the Israeli detainees."

Tuesday, June 18

- Berri frees three more hostages, including Greek singer, leaving 40 hostages, all believed to be Americans.
- U.S. sends demarches to various countries and international organizations, requesting they use their good auspices to influence the situation.
- U.S. decides to issue travel advisory warning to U.S. citizens about travel through Athens Airport.
- U.S. contacts with government of Syria and others focus on the need to release hostages quickly and transfer them out of Lebanon.
- The President, in the opening statement of a regularly scheduled nationally-televised press conference, announces measures to deal with airport security and terrorism. He calls for the immediate safe release of our citizens. Hijacking issue dominates news conference questions.

Wednesday, June 19

- U.S. requests International Committee of the Red Cross to see the hostages and check their welfare.
- ABC News correspondents allowed to approach airliner to interview pilot John Testrake and crew, the first of many media interviews with the hostages arranged by their captors.
- President offers thoughts at a question-and-answer session with members of the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce in Indiana: "To the families of those here from your own state, I think we all are praying -- that's all -- I've been praying ceaselessly for them and for their safety."
- President meets with hostage families in Indianapolis.
- At the Annual Convention of the U.S. Jaycees in Indianapolis, the President says: "We're continuing to do everything that we can to bring all credible influence to bear, to get our people freed and returned home safe and sound ... but let me say, we must not yield to the terrorist demands that invite more terrorism. We cannot reward their grisly deeds. We will not cave in."
- Terrorists in San Salvador kill 15, including four unarmed off-duty U.S. Marines not in uniform and two U.S. businessmen.

Thursday, June 20

- The President meets with his national security advisers in the White House Situation Room, 10:06 a.m. until 11:15 a.m.

Thursday, June 20 (continued)

- The President issues a statement on the killing of Americans in El Salvador, saying he has appointed the Vice President to take the lead within the U.S. government and with our allies "to determine what actions, military and otherwise, we and our similarly threatened friends can take to end this increasingly violent and indiscriminate but purposeful affront to humanity. ... No nation on earth has been more generous to others in need. But we also have our limits -- and our limits have been reached. We cannot allow our people to be placed at risk simply because they are blessed in being citizens of this great Republic."

Friday, June 21

- Diplomatic efforts continue.
- President meets with hostage families in Dallas.
- In the President's address to the Lions Club International Convention in Dallas, he talks about terrorism:
"In the last few days, it has become even 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, Germany; the hijacking of one of our airlines; and the seizure of a Jordanian aircraft. The killers in El Salvador are no different than those other perpetrators of inhumane acts."

Saturday, June 22

- Diplomatic efforts continue.
- The President says in his weekly radio address to the Nation: "We will carry with us all of the grief and sorrow and rising anger of a nation whose patience has been stretched to its limit."

Sunday, June 23

- Diplomatic efforts continue. By now, numerous countries, including many in the Middle East, have condemned the hijacking.

Monday, June 24

- Israel releases 31 Lebanese detainees from Atlit prison, but says their release resulted from judicial processes and is not linked to hijackers' demands.
- In Beirut, Nabih Berri announces a new demand: that U.S. Navy ships in the area leave before the hostages can be released.
- Meeting with his national security advisors in the White House Situation Room, the President decides to let diplomatic action play out; Syria the focus of diplomatic efforts. Meeting, which began at 2:07 p.m., ends at 3:38 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25

- At 9:15 a.m. press briefing, Larry Speakes discusses options the President may consider, including limiting goods and services to Beirut and limiting use of Beirut International Airport.

Tuesday, June 25 (continued)

- At 1:47 p.m., the President chairs a meeting of national security advisors in the White House Situation Room; reviews plans to extricate the hostages and to press forward with a campaign against terrorism. Meeting ends at 3:00 p.m.
- Interagency meeting refines planning directed by the President.
- In a 4:00 p.m. press briefing, Larry Speakes reports that the President met with national security advisors, receiving a top-to-bottom review of current diplomatic efforts and the full range of future options for bringing full pressure to bear on those holding U.S. citizens. Speakes says that the review covered ongoing efforts and the assessment as to whether they will bear fruit. According to Speakes, the President also reviewed a wide-ranging series of options that could be applied to the situation should the hostages be held for a longer period. Speakes closes the briefing by saying: "The President will let diplomacy run its full course before taking further steps, but he is prepared to take whatever actions are necessary."

Wednesday, June 26

- From 10:03 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., the President chairs another meeting of his national security advisors in the White House Situation Room. Defers other steps pending diplomatic developments.
- News blackout begins.
- Another hostage, Jimmy Palmer, is released because of a worsening heart condition.
- Berri reiterates his demand that U.S. warships pull away from the Lebanese coast. He adds a new demand: that neither the U.S. nor Israel retaliate once the situation is resolved. Berri announces proposal to transfer all hostages to a Western embassy in Beirut or to Damascus, where they would remain until Atlit detainees are released.

Thursday, June 27

- Interagency group develops contingency plans.
- Wide speculation in media about whether hostages will be transferred to the French or another Western embassy. Europeans won't accept conditions.
- Secretary of State Shultz's call for release of 46 U.S. hostages (including seven who were missing in Lebanon prior to the TWA hijacking) is widely reported in media as a "new U.S. demand."

Friday, June 28

- Interagency group meets again, prepares agenda for consideration by the President and his advisors.
- More hostage interviews by television networks.
- President meets with hostage families in Chicago.
- At a luncheon with community leaders of Chicago Heights, Illinois, the President says, in response to a question about one of the hostages' critical comments on the linkage of the seven kidnapped hostages to the 39 hijacking hostages: "I don't think anything that attempts to get people back who have been kidnapped by thugs and murderers and barbarians is wrong to do. And we are going to do everything that we can to get all of the Americans back that are held in that way."

Friday, June 28 (continued)

- In his remarks to the citizens of Chicago Heights, the President says: "When terrorism strikes, civilization itself is under attack. No nation is immune. There's no safety in silence or neutrality. If we permit terrorism to succeed anywhere, it will spread like a cancer, eating away at civilized societies and sowing fear and chaos everywhere. This barbarism is abhorrent. And all of those who support it, encourage it and profit from it are abhorrent. They are barbarians... We cannot accept these repeated and vicious attacks against our nation and its citizens. Terrorists, and those who support them, must, and will, be held to account."
- After returning from Chicago trip, the President chairs another meeting in White House Situation Room, from 5:11 p.m. until 6:10 p.m. -- reviews developments and determines courses of action to be taken in various contingencies.
- More television interviews with hostages.
- At about 7:00 p.m., press reports from the Middle East say hostages will be released. White House, in change from complete news blackout, says: "We have heard the reports. We are in touch with appropriate authorities in both countries (Lebanon and Syria). We have no further comment."

Saturday, June 29

- U.S. C-141 military transport aircraft with reception team departs Washington for Frankfurt. Another C-141 goes to Damascus.
- At about 4:00 a.m., hostages are reported released, en route to Syria. There are conflicting reports on their exact status and location. Syria announces "the hostages were freed today and will be transferred to Damascus where they are expected later today."
- Later reporting, confirmed around 7:00 a.m., indicates hostages still in Beirut, with Berri apparently seeking guarantees concerning U.S. non-retaliation.
- More television interviews with hostages.
- President mentions hostage situation briefly at beginning of his weekly radio address; confers with national security advisors in Oval Office; consults with other advisors by telephone.
- At about 10:00 p.m., the following statement, approved by the President as a restatement of longstanding policy regarding Lebanon, is issued by the Department of State: "The United States reaffirms its longstanding support for the preservation of Lebanon, its government, its stability and security, and for the mitigation of the suffering of its people."

Sunday, June 30

- At 3:30 a.m., Syrian officials in Damascus tell the U.S. Embassy "Syria has solved" the problem that delayed release of 39 TWA hijacking hostages.
- Press reports from Beirut and Damascus indicate preparations are being made for hostage release.
- At 6:00 a.m., arriving at the White House, National Security Advisor McFarlane tells reporters he talked to the President several times the previous evening and says "we just hope for the best."

Sunday, June 30 (continued)

- Hostages are reported by media to be en route Damascus. Other reports conflict with this.
- U.S. officials in Syria advise Washington that shortly before 1:30 p.m., hostages crossed the border into Syria from Lebanon. The exact number of hostages released, believed to be all 39, is not yet confirmed.
- Advised of the hostage release by McFarlane, the President says, "That's very welcome news. Let me know when they are wheels up."
- President addresses the Nation by television from the Oval Office: "The 39 Americans held hostage ...are free, safe, and at this moment, on their way to Frankfurt, Germany. They will be home again soon... 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. And, we call upon the world community to strengthen its cooperation to stamp out this ugly, vicious evil of terrorism."

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14 June 1985

CMC Chronology of Events (all entry times EDT):
The TWA Hijacking

- 140502 Rcvd Emb Athens 140852Z. TWA reports flight 847 from Athens to Rome which departed Athens at 0845 today was hijacked approx 20 minutes after takeoff. Hijackers wanted to go to Algiers, but aircraft was diverted to Beirut. Acft has 145 pax and eight crew.
- 140505 AMEMB PARIS 140848Z. TWA informed FAA Paris that flight 847 was hijacked, had been headed for Algeria, refueled landing, and now is on its way to Beirut.
- 140601 AMEMB CAIRO 140939Z. No Cairo emb personnel reported on flight 847. Five AMCITS listed as booked.
- 140605 AMEMB LONDON 140949Z. Hijackers identified as Salmon Simir and Al Kobbi Gostleb. Reportedly they arrived Athens from Beirut yesterday. TWA says pistols were used in the hijacking. Aircraft overflow Larnaca and attempted two landings at Beirut, thwarted by obstacles placed on the runway.
- 140622 AMEMB BEIRUT 141006Z. Situation as of 0945Z. At 1153 local, 0853Z, flight 847 landed at Beirut. Hijackers threaten to kill an AMCIT if fuel not provided. Hijackers reportedly are beating pax and pilot. PSP official is said to be at airport to negotiate.
- Plane refueled at 0912Z. "Voice of Lebanon" reports that hijackers belong to "Musa Sadr (el Husayn) suicide brigade." This is same Shia group that claimed responsibility for the Alia hijacking June 11/12. Emb Beirut is monitoring aircraft/tower communications. MFA advised that PM Karami made decision to not allow aircraft to land. Emb observed no attempt to block runway. De facto control of runway is in the hands of the PSP, AMAL, and other militias at airport. Hijacker demands other than fuel unknown.
- 140641 AMEMB BEIRUT 141030Z. Flight 847 departed Beirut for Algiers at 1031Z.
- 140654 AMEMB BEIRUT 141043Z. Pilot of flight 847 reported that his ETA Algiers is 1437Z. Twenty-five women and children reportedly were released in Beirut. Nationality, other details unknown.

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DECLASSIFIED IN PART
NLRR F97-05912 #89
BY RW NARA DATE 5/29/18

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-2-

- 140703 [REDACTED] Hijackers demanded to speak with Abu Ali, a representative from the Amal movement (Shiite Moslem Militia). Ali was said to be en route to the tower.
- 140715 [REDACTED] At 0941Z, aircraft was being refueled at BIA. Hijackers were agitated and insisted that no movement was to occur near the aircraft.
- 140732 [REDACTED] Hijackers demanded facilities to broadcast a statement at approximately 1010Z.
- 140733 [REDACTED] Summarizes situation as of 1106Z.
- 140736 Reuter 78. Hijackers free 20 and head to Algiers.
- 140741 [REDACTED] hijackers had insisted that radio silence be maintained.
- 140743 Reuter 79. Passengers being beaten, pilot pleads for fuel.
- 140745 [REDACTED] At 1013Z, hijackers demanded release of all detainees in Israeli prisons, which were to be sent to Sidon with the aid of the Red Cross.
- 140747 [REDACTED] After landing in Beirut, hijackers threaten to kill American tied up in cockpit if the plane is not refueled immediately. Other demands: free Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and their transport to Sidon by Red Cross; condemnation of American efforts to control Arab states and govts in its support of Israel; condemnation of the acts of destruction in southern Beirut and the attempt to divide the Muslims by the placing of explosives in Riyadh. Aircraft continues to Algiers as of 0728(L)
- 140751 FBIS 32. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for hijacking.
- 140814 FBIS 35. Voice of Lebanon reports that a hijacker said the detainees in Kuwait should be released before 1800 local (1500Z) or the plane would be blown up.

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-3-

- 140827 FBIS 38. American reportedly killed aboard plane.
- 140831 AMEMB BERUIT 141216Z. Lengthy message re events in Beruit after plane landed. See clipboard.
- 140841 [REDACTED]
- 140843 AMEMB TUNIS 141205Z. Charge conveyed to acting fonmin Mahmoud Mestiri concern that aircraft might not have enough fuel to reach Algiers, and strongly urged Tunisian government to allow plane to land in Tunis to refuel in order to be able to continue to Algiers. Mestiri, after consultation at the "highest levels of Tunisian government," said it was "absolutely impossible."
- 140915 STATE SITREP #1 received. See clipboard.
- 140919 AMEMB PARIS 141312Z. TWA Paris office concerned that Algeria not allowing plane to land. Plane 2 hrs east of Algiers as of 1440 Paris time.
- 140957 AMEMB TUNIS 141351Z. Reports that Tunis and Bizerte airports closed; plane denied permission to land in Italy also.
- 141001 AMEMB ATHENS 141342Z. Reports pax manifest. See clipboard.
- 141005 AMEMN ALGIERS 141313Z. Amb spoke with MFA Secgen Kerroum and NSC Chief Gheziel at 1200Z. Algerians voiced policy of not letting hijacked aircraft land. Amb asked if they would allow on humanitarian grounds. Algerians will consult and get back.
- 141007 AMEMB BERUIT 141358Z. Amal contact called Amb at 1235Z. He expects aircraft to return and was studying alternatives. Thinks hijackers are connected to Dawa prisoners in Kuwait. Promised heavy presence at Beirut airport if plane returns. Promises continued close contact.
- 141007 [REDACTED]

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~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-4-

- 141009 SECSTATE 141403. Establishes a State working group to deal with hijacking situation.
- 141037 [REDACTED]
- 141144 AMEMB Algiers 141515Z. Algerian Pres confirms aircraft landed at 1438Z
- 141157 USCINCEUR LONDON 141550Z (READD BY JCS). Tells CINCUSNAVEUR to get SAIPAN underway from Spain port to support contingency ops. NFI.
- 141214 AMEMB BEIRUT 141600Z. Amb spoke with Gemayel about potential for plane returning to Beirut. Gemayel hopes it won't and said there was little they could do to secure safe and prompt release of pax. BIA manager says his orders are to prevent plane from landing.
- 141200* SECSTATE 141421Z. Reports that TWA has chartered plane to fly to wherever plane lands. Asks for Amb assistance in obtaining landing rights.
- 141200 REUTER reports names of pax released in Beirut.
- 141300 Navy FLASHBOARD 1244Z. Details re Navy personnel on plane... [REDACTED]
- 141308 AMEMB ATHENS 141700Z. Details on Navy personnel on plane. See clipboard.
- 141310 USCINCEUR 141710Z. Directs movement of USS NIMITZ thru [REDACTED] to MODLOC vic. [REDACTED]
- 141320 FBIS 90. Voice of Lebanon reports that consultations have taken place on the possibility of an [REDACTED] operation to rescue the hostages. [REDACTED]
- 141321 FBIS 89. Hijackers reportedly have planted explosives in the plane and have demanded to see the U.S. ambassador to Algeria.
- 141329 JCS 141722Z. SECDEF has authorized deployment of a JSOC team as part of an Emergency Support Team to provide advice and assistance to the ambassador.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-5-

- 141330 [REDACTED] FAA reports Algerians are refusing to refuel plane. Plane located at end of runway 28 surrounded by Algerian army types. (Note: CNN pix show no one around plane.)
- 141332 CINCUSNAVEUR 141728Z. Implements USCINCEUR 141550Z. See clipboard.
- 141337 JCS 141721Z. [REDACTED]
- 141343 AMEMB ATHENS 141719Z. Reports details on some of the pax on plane. See pax clipboard.
- 141416 FBIS 97. Radio Monte Carlo reports that the plane would not return to Beirut because the hijackers fear an Israeli military operation.
- 141430 [REDACTED] FAA reports a bus and a fuel truck enroute plane as of 1816Z
- 141500 STATE TASK FORCE phonecon reports 10 women released in Algiers.
- 141505 SECSTATE 141724Z. Quotes President's message to Benjedid. Asks that plane be allowed to land, but not be allowed to take off.
- 141509 Reuter 150. Greek authorities detained a Lebanese who confessed to having a role in the hijacking. Man could not get a seat on the plane. He confessed that the hijackers had two hand grenades and one 9mm pistol. Hijackers' goal is said to be release of Lebanese prisoners.
- 141510 FBIS 111. Algerian press service says hijackers threatened to kill the pax if their demands are not met. The U.S. ambassador in Algiers arrived at the airport after the pirates demanded he be there.
- 141530 [REDACTED] Confirms State phonecon.
- 141530 CNN reports departure of aircraft from Algiers, State confirms by telcon; chatter on Flashboard to same effect. 19 men and 2 women released, plane refueled and filed flight plan for Beirut.
- 141531* Reuter 154. Algerian news agency reports release of some pax, number unknown.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

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- 141540 [REDACTED] the plane is airborne as of 1923Z. Pilot reportedly filed a flight plan for Beirut.
- 141624 [REDACTED] Reports TWA 847 departed Algiers at 1924Z. Routing to Beirut to be the reverse of earlier flight.
- 141629 AMEMB BEIRUT 142022Z. Reports Amb USG position to GOL that plane should not be allowed to land again in Beirut.
- 141740 FBIS 132 rcvd. Beirut airport sources said it is not likely plane is heading for Beirut; report could not be confirmed... plane still in Greek airspace... plane reportedly will not be allowed to land at BIA... obstacles said to have been placed on runway.
- 141745 Called State WG for update on AMCITS still on plane. They said there were 122 amcits originally aboard, of a total of 147 pax (including two hijackers). There was a crew of eight, for a grand total of 155. Nationality of 19 pax released in Beirut and 20 pax released in Algiers is unknown.
- 141815 Received State SITREP #2. Only unique info is that no obstacles have been placed on runways at BIA, nor has it been closed.
- 141900 [REDACTED] TWA 847 had 50 min of fuel left at 2236Z. [REDACTED] Beirut runways were blocked by trucks; hijackers wanted to circle. Pilot told Beirut tower that situation was desperate and requested permission to land.
- 141920 NSOC advises over phone that plane had landed at about 2320Z. [REDACTED]
- 141940 NSOC calls....one pax shot, possibly a Marine (?). Hijackers threaten to shoot another in three min. DTG of msg given as 142335Z.
- 142000 CNN reports one pax shot and thrown out the door to the ramp.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

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142045 [REDACTED] 0026Z tower advised pilot that "officials" entered plane. 0030Z tower asked if pilot could call some one, possibly hijackers. (Reference to hijackers in rear of plane.)

142100 Received STATE 150031Z, cable version of Sit Rep #2.

142122 CNN carried a live interview with a UPI reporter from Beirut reporting that negotiators are aboard the plane and that the dead man had been picked up by authorities.

142135 [REDACTED]

142145 Secured the watch.

142240 TWA 847 departs Beirut for Algiers. (State)

142341 Pilot reports there are 107 pax, 8 crew and 4 hijackers aboard. [REDACTED]

150000 Algiers domestic news service claims another pax shot....no confirmation. (FBIS)

150037 AMEMB Beirut reports ID of dead pax cannot be ascertained...VOL says name is Brown. (State, UPI)

150055 All Tunisian airfields closed [REDACTED]

150118 FBIS reports that all Iranian airfields closed.

150159 Greek authorities claim hijacker's weapons brought aboard in Cairo...all boarding in Athens were searched. (FBIS)

150254 TWA 847 lands in Algiers [REDACTED]

150324 Greek govt considering release of third man. (FBIS)

150504 Two pax released.

150815 Rcvd update from WHSR. Plane is in Algiers, having landed there at approx 0644Z.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

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- 151000* NMCC advised that EST was in Sigonella.
- 151110 Tasked by Rod to prepare a map for JP of the Med showing flight times from Sigonella to Algiers and Sig to Akrotiri to Beirut. Also to include helo flight times from Sig to Algiers and Akrotiri to Beirut. Map to be 8x10 base map.
- 151115 Called NMCC for time-distance info for map.
- 151140 Delivered map to JP. He had no questions.
- 151200 CNN reports release of many hostages, speaking to a TWA spokesman. All women released. Remaining is approx 53 American males plus three crew in cockpit. TWA reports in excess of 12 hijackers on board, source of info unclear. CNN reporter at State says State TF, consulting with Emb Algiers, confirms release, but doesn't know number.
- 160300 TWA acft departed Algiers enroute Beirut...departed one hour ahead of deadline because of "change in plan"...pilot estimates arrival at Beirut 0730 EDT. Pilot report two hours earlier a passenger was being beaten/killed while hijackers were waiting for a fuel truck to arrive (no confirmation passenger killed). (Press, [REDACTED])
- 160320 Bartholomew told Algerian charge (ambassador had returned to Algiers to work on hijacking) it might be useful for the charge to contact Shiite leader Fadlallah to end the hijacking. Reg states the charge was obviously uninformed/not useful. Reg suggests Washington ask Embassy Algiers to approach Algeria on the usefulness of reaching Fadlallah in Beirut and possibly flying him to Algiers.
- 160328 Hijacker reported "I will return to Algeria tonight or tomorrow. I will only meet the Red Cross for the exchange of prisoners in the east Algeria airport"...thanked Algerian government. Algerian tower told hijackers the line of communication is open with authorities in America and Israel.
- 160340 Embassy Beirut reports body of "unidentified American" killed Friday in Beirut is at Larnaca enroute Torrejon AFB.

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~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-9-

160345 State reports Beirut International has given clearance for the hijacked aircraft to land.

160415 [REDACTED]

160500 Embassy Damascus charge informed that Syrian foreign minister had spoken to President Assad. At our charge's request she agreed to again call Assad (when acft departed Algiers) to reiterate our request that Assad put heavy pressure on Barri to assist us.

160511 Pilot in intercept reported there are seven (sic) hijackers, all male, and that someone in the back was hurt badly.

Further reporting confirms 7-10 passengers with Jewish sounding surnames were debarked Friday in Beirut.

160543 TWA representatives at Algiers claim adjusted manifest is now 31-33 AMCIT passengers and crew now aboard acft (plus 15 hijackers). (CNN)

160600 [REDACTED]

160645 Gen Bin Shaker said the only circumstance in which the Jordanian government could agree to the acft land in Amman is with the clear understanding that [REDACTED]

160648 Pilot radioed that hijackers want to ultimately go to Tehran, where they will release the passengers and crew. Hijackers said they also will deplane there. Pilot reported there are 30 passengers in the aft compartment and 7 hijackers and crew in the forward compartment...acft may land at Larnaca and definitely at Beirut prior to flying to Tehran.

160709 Pilot radioed that if a satisfactory answer to their request to go to Tehran is not received, the hijackers will disable the acft at Beirut.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-10-

- 160713 Pilot stated must land at Beirut...hijackers now decided not to disable the acft...pilot requested airport personnel not to attempt to disable the acft on the ground at Beirut. Pilot then stated if hijackers wanted the plane to go where it shouldn't, he would fix the engines so they would not start again.
- 160747 Acft safely landed in Beirut...had been cleared to land at Larnaca.
- 160751 Hijackers stated they would negotiate with Red Cross personnel...threatened to open fire on personnel nearby if they did not move away.
- 160817 Aircraft being moved in preparation for refueling... hijackers also asked for food and newspapers. [REDACTED]
- 160952 HJs ask for reps from Red Cross, Lebanese Interior Minister, UN, UK and French Amb's.
- 160959 Pilot asks for 30K lbs of fuel.
- 161031 CNN reports that acft returned this morning to Beirut from Algiers. Shi'ite hijackers are said to have threatened to kill the 20-odd remaining U.S. hostages if Israel doesn't release 50 Shi'ites held prisoner by Israel.
- 161100 AMEMB Beirut informed State that Barri was assured by hj's that no harm will come to pax as long as things are proceeding.
- 161105 CNN, from State, reports that Ambassador Bartholomew is now talking to senior Lebanese government officials. No new deadlines set. Efforts underway to get International Red Cross involved. Number of hostages with Jewish surnames is said now to be between six and eight, not the twelve previously reported.
- 161108 CNN reports that President Reagan will shortly be returning to the White House for a 1300 meeting in the SitRoom with NSA McFarlane, Shultz, and Casey.
- 161125 CNN reports that hijackers want Israel to free fifty prisoners. Israel is reported to have dispatched buses near an Israeli prison for their release. Bushinsky (CNN/Jerusalem) says there is no firm information on this, indicates Israeli censorship of his live report.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

- 161100 KJL arrived at the WHSR for an update and to prepare for an NSPG, scheduled for 1300. EVL began working on a CHRON summary, Jon & Wayne started developing graphic support.
- 161200 FBIS reports Barri has pledged to release pax if US persuades Israel to release Atlit prisoners.
- 161202 CNN reports that there are said to be 12-15 Shi'ite hijackers currently on board acft.
- 161222 FBIS reports hj's demand the release of an accomplice in Spain.
- 161245 Specifics of material support prepared for NSPG include map of Med, list of demands, and chronology of major events.
- 161300 The President chaired an NSPG on the hijacking.
- 161324 Hj's will release Robert Peal (chest pains, taken to American U. Hospital).
- 161400 NSPG adjourned. It was decided not to take military action to rescue the hostages.
- 161626 FBIS/VOL reports that Barri has placed Amal forces on alert fearing Israeli commando attack.
- 161942 Madrid domestic radio states that Spanish FM will not set free 2 Lebanese Shi'ites held in Spain.
- 162300 Reuters reports letter from hostages to President.
- 162305 Jerusalem domestic radio reports Israeli Cabinet's willingness to discuss relkease of detainees if US sends high level appeal.
- 170130 RCM calls Barri: We will not make concessions to hijackers, nor will we ask Israel to do so; we would like to help in the reconstruction of Shi'ite areas, but this sort of terrorism makes that impossible; the hijackers claim that in asking for the release of the Ansar prisoners they are not going beyond the Israeli announcement that they will be released. RCM comments that this creates a contest of wills in which it is US and Israeli policy not to accede.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-12-

170220 [REDACTED] all remaining pax removed from plane at 2330(EDT) (170230 Beirut). HJ's remain behind. Amal confirms at 0800 (Beirut). Viz obs from AMEMB detects little acty around lane after 0300 (Beirut).

170243 HJ's give tower permission for air traffic to resume, want 15 min warning.

170438 [REDACTED]

170500 FBIS reports plane has been refueled.

170556 [REDACTED]

170726 [REDACTED]

170736 FBIS reports Druze radio is claiming all pax have been removed from plane.

170750 [REDACTED]

170751 State OPCEN reports Bartholemew had been in contact with Barri; Barri confirms removal of pax.

170801 CNN carries report from an Amal official that pax are in good shape.

170843 AMEMB DAMASCUS 170929Z. Reports that Syria is publically neutral but privately trying to get Barri involved.

170845 Bartholemew reports Barri is "very tough" and "it is now up to the US."

170845 [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-13-

170900 Barri tells media that he had pax removed to a West Beirut location to prevent military assault or Palestinian shelling.

170900 FBIS quotes VOL report that Amal has custody of all pax.

171009 [REDACTED]

171045 AMEB Beirut. Quotes Walid Jumblatt criticizes hijacking in general...have never served national interests.

171045 Barri at news conference that pax are held at one location.

171115Z [REDACTED]

171153 [REDACTED]

171245 FAA reports that MEA rep said the pax were held in Hayy As Sallum.

171400 French radio correspondent reports that 9 pax removed from a/c 15 Jun were taken to Bi'r al-'Abd quarter of s. Beirut.

171520 AMEMB Damascus believes Assad is genuinely trying to help.

171530 [REDACTED]

171540 Tel Aviv ready to hear proposals from ICRC, but will not negotiate with ICRC for release of Shi'ite detainees.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~/ [REDACTED]

-14-

171550 Kuwait decides that the three Da'wa prisoners will be executed after the EID holidays (22-23 Jun)

171554 [REDACTED]

171600 Pax victim ident as Stethem.

171623 [REDACTED]

171645 [REDACTED]

171705 [REDACTED] More re fueling....fuel not "for taking off" (2037Z).

Note: Later reports indicate plane took on 24k lbs of fuel

171735Z [REDACTED]

171737 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Hj's allow one person to board a/c.

171800 Spain will try the two terrorists...no release.

171803 [REDACTED] 2136Z completed refueling.

171900 An Amal member claims to have seen pax aboard a/c Monday afternoon. When confronted, Barri says it's a deception.

172217 SECSTATE tells Bartholemew that Barri must control the a/c. [REDACTED]

172316 [REDACTED] Hj's advised at 0212Z that the a/c would be moved.

180116 Rabin said last night that responsibility for negotiations with the hj's and the well-being of the pax rests with U.S.

~~SECRET~~/ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-15-

- 180124 Beirut radio claims "a number" of pax are held in Hayy al-Sallum.
- 180313 Tower tells a/c the vehicle is bringing supplies to the "passengers".
- 180511 SECSTATE 181002Z. Says MEA and airport officials deny that a/c had been serviced and that explosives were place aboard.
- 180630 CBS TV reports conversation with Barri; Barri states three more pax will be released.
- 180637 [REDACTED]
- 180722 HJ's ask for US and Israeli pressure on Spain and Kuwait to release prisoners.
- 180730 AMEMB Beirut 181023Z. Bartholemew conversation with Barri. Very useful. Barri says he has all pax but five; he has connection with those holding the five and working to have them join others. (Presume they are with Hizballah.)
- 180845 CNN reports release of three pax.
- 180811 [REDACTED] if demands not met, they will take the American and Jewish pax to the White House and blow them up. Maintains they can hit the US in its very depths.
- 181000 [REDACTED]
- 181030 [REDACTED]
- 181034 [REDACTED] Reports [REDACTED] warning MFA that extremist Shi'ites will try to hijack a Cyprus Airways a/c during the Bayram holidays.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-16-

181118 [REDACTED]

181200 [REDACTED]

181203 FLASHBOARD from Nav...CNN reported that Speakes publicly expressed that Israel should release the Lebanese prisoners since they were illegally detained and transported.

181230 Arab League ready to help

181255 [REDACTED]

181300 [REDACTED]

181312 The hijackers asked the tower for 100 meals.

181320 [REDACTED]

181347 One of the hijackers aboard the aircraft said, "unless someone tells us something sometime tonight, we will fill [the aircraft] up with fuel and benzine and bring it down on Tel Aviv." He told the tower to relay his statement to the press. At 1416, they reiterated their demands for information (probably about the status of negotiations), threatening to have the plane take off by 1900 EDT if no answer was received. Amal later tells hj's to stop the "nonsense and childish games" and not make such threats.

181500 CNN reports that the three crewmen and nine hijackers remain aboard the aircraft, contradicting Barri's earlier statements.

181753 [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-17-

181830 SECSTATE 182221Z. Starts contingency planning for hostage release and travel.

190400 UAE paper reports Algerian plan that pax be realeased if US promises that Israel will reaLEASE SHIA PRISONERS at a later date.

19xxxx Journalists interview pilot.

190900 [REDACTED] has warning of possible hijacking a/c out of [REDACTED]

191150 Greeks suggest weapons were smuggled aboard in Cairo.

191200 Speaker of Leb parliament and leading Shia figure Husayn Hussayni promises Bartholemew he will try to be helpful.

191300 Israeli attache in Wash reported that some hostages w/ Jewish-sounding names have been moved to Bekaa Valley.

191330 German security, [REDACTED] have identified the German-speaking hj as Muhamad Ali Hamad.

191506 [REDACTED]

191640 [REDACTED] intell has learned that 6th LAF Brigade is mining beaches near BIA.

191822 1st VP of ALPA is visiting Israel; private visit. Oakley withholds USG support.

191832 Sec State thanks Gemayel for help.

200030 Hj's ask for phot equipment and says pilot in good health.

200122 State asks AMEMB Beirut about how to handle requests made to State for sending medicine and mail to hostages.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-18-

200315 Beirut Radio claims RCM will fly to Beirut.

200830 [REDACTED]

201300 FBIS-VOL report that some of the hostages have been taken to Bekaa by Hezbollah.

201700 Second hostage news conf (first blew up when press got rowdy) Allyn Conwell said he spoke with 37 pax today....with 3 in a/c, does that mean the Jewish-sounding names are not in Beka'? Conwell reads names of all pax--coincides with list prepared by State.

201705 Reports that Palmer has heart condition and may be released. Rabin says that unless the US did not ask Israel "in the most explicit and formal manner" to release the Shia detainees, Israel will not lend a hand.

201710 Several sources say the Jewish-names have been moved to Beka'...CIA and State do not believe that.

201844 [REDACTED]

210222 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] got weapons thru security by wrapping them in either metallic or fiber glass cloth so they appeared as rolled towel on X-ray.

210500 Pres sked to visit families of Conwell, Garza and Trautman in Texas. Barri says he will send hostages to a neutral country (specified Switz) if the Israeli prisoners sent also...admits again that some pax are held in separate place, but has "honor promise" that the six would be released same time as larger group.

210600 Post reports that separate group are most military vice Jewish names...."informed sources in Wash DC."

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~/ [REDACTED]

-19-

210930 Becoming clear that first two hj's are Hizballah and trained in Syria. Syria orderd Barri to take control of the HJ....thus conclusion that Syria playing specific role in this, while Iran (who backs the Hizballah) is not on the front row.

211030 [REDACTED]

211430 [REDACTED]

211430 Ibid. According to press reports from Beirut, thousands of Shias marched to BIA today in a show of solidarity with the hj's.

221700 [REDACTED]

221700 State sitrep 18. Plane was refueled at 0800 and moved to its previous position on the tarmac... earlier reports that two hostages with medical problems might be released have proved unfounded.

231700 [REDACTED]

240500 State sitrep 21, citing press reports, says Israel released 31 Shia prisoners today.

241700 State sitrep 25 says that press reports this morning cite Barri as saying that U.S. warships musty leave Lebanese waters before the hostages can be released.

241731 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] some
hostages' relatives had been contacted and were receptive to forming a pressure group. The group might send a delegation to Israel to pressure the Israelis.

~~SECRET~~/ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

-20-

251330 NSPG in WHSR.
251600 CPPG in room 208.
261000 NSPG in WHSR.
261034 CNN reported the release of hostage Palmer.
271050 CPPG in room 208, chaired by jp.
271340 CPPG follow-on meeting in room 208, chaired by Don Fortier.
280956 CNN reported the unconfirmed release of hostage Grossmayer.
281500 Commenced revision of NPA to reflect alternatives of No release and Partial Release.
281715 NSPG in WHSR.
281730 Reports of Grossmayer's release unfounded, but his whereabouts are unknown.

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

National Security Council
The White House

System #

I

Package #

90694

85 JUN 19 P 8: 38

1838

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<i>1</i>		
William Martin	<i>2</i>	<i>um</i>	
John Poindexter	<i>3</i>	<i>J</i>	
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
William Martin			
NSC Secretariat			
Situation Room			
<i>TEICHER</i>	<i>4</i>		

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)

*Please get back to Political Counselor
and tell him we have evidence
that Iran is lying about this.*

J

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RECEIVED 22 JUN 85 14

TO MCFARLANE FROM FORTIER
TEICHER

DOC DATE 21 JUN 85

21 JUN 85

KEYWORDS: USSR SYRIA
TERRORISM HIJACKING

SUBJECT: APPROACHING THE SOVIETS RE THE SYRIAN ACCOUNTABILITY IN HOSTAGE
SITUATION

ACTION: FOR DECISION DUE: STATUS X FILES SII

FOR ACTION FOR CONCURRENCE FOR INFO
MCFARLANE

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NLS F97-059/2 #91BY smf, NARA DATE 3/21/04

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ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

- 6/24 MCFARLANE approved
C 6/24 Martin signed HI

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Log Number 90693 a/o

Date 24 JUNE 1985

Subject: ORAL DEMARCHE TO USSR

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WJN 11/7/89

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: ☐ TOP SECRET ☒ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

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_____ Mr. Kimmitt	_____ [REDACTED]	_____ Mr. Mahley	_____ Col. Rye	_____ Cmdr. Thompson
_____ Mr. Pearson	_____ Col. Douglass	_____ Mr. Martin	_____ Mr. Sable	_____ Mr. Wigg
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Page 1 of _____ Pages

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SYSTEM II
90693 ADD-ON

June 24, 1985

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR NICHOLAS PLATT

SUBJECT: Approaching the Soviets Re Syrian
Accountability in the Hostage Situation *(ST)*

Mr. McFarlane requests that the Department of State orally convey the demarche at Tab A to an appropriate official of the Soviet Embassy. *(ST)*

William F. Martin

William F. Martin
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Tab A Oral demarche

UNCLASSIFIED RELEASED

NLS F97-059/2 #92

BY smf, NARA, DATE 3/21/06

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D R A F T

DEMARCHE

THE SYRIAN ROLE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION IN BEIRUT IS OBVIOUS AND
UNDENIABLE. THE SOVIET UNION IS IN A POSITION TO USE ITS
INFLUENCE CONSTRUCTIVELY. THE UNITED STATES ASSUMES IT IS DOING
SO. INDEED, GIVEN THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND SYRIA'S
PREEMINENT POSITION IN LEBANON, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SYRIA TAKE
EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO END THIS SITUATION AND AVOID BEING HELD
ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE PROLONGATION OF THIS UNCIVILIZED AND CRIMINAL
ACTION.

UNCLASSIFIED, RELEASED

NLS F77-059/2*93

3Y amp, NARA, DATE 3/21/06

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National Security Council
The White House

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Package #

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William Martin	2		A
John Poindexter			
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
William Martin			
NSC Secretariat	3	BT	D
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 24, 1985

~~SECRET~~ACTION

SIGNED

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. MARTIN

FROM: HOWARD R. TEICHER *HRT*

SUBJECT: Approaching the Soviets Re Syrian
Accountability in the Hostage Situation

Attached at Tab I is a memo to Nicholas Platt instructing State to convey the oral demarche at Tab A. McFarlane approved the oral demarche on June 22 (Tab B).

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I.

Approve *um* Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Memo to Platt
Tab A Oral demarche
Tab B Approval of oral demarche

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NLS F97-059/2 #94BY *smf*, NARA, DATE 3/2/04

National Security Council
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System #

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William Martin			
NSC Secretariat			
Situation Room			

I = Information

A = Action

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cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other

COMMENTS

Should be seen by:

(Date/Time)

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SYSTEM II
90693

June 21, 1985

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM: DONALD FORTIER *DF*
HOWARD R. TEICHER *HRT*

SUBJECT: Approaching the Soviets re the Syrian
Accountability in the Hostage Situation

We have considered the possibility of communicating with the Soviets in order to stimulate pressure from Moscow on Damascus to resolve the hostage situation. As you are aware, the Soviets are in public expressing concern over the U.S. military build-up in the Eastern Mediterranean. Obviously they are doing this to agitate the Arab states regarding U.S. intentions. Given our past performance, the Soviets probably doubt that we will use force in the near term, especially against Syria, even though we have threatened to hold Syria responsible for terrorism in the past.

As you know, Assad made a surprise visit to the Soviet Union today. While undoubtedly not connected with the Lebanon situation, we can assume that the subject came up.

In trying to take advantage of Soviet concern over a possible U.S./Soviet confrontation in the Eastern Mediterranean, it might be useful to communicate U.S. views regarding Syrian accountability for what is going on in Beirut. Perhaps at the Assistant Secretary level, we could deliver an oral demarche that conveys ambiguity about U.S. intentions while making clear our intention to hold Syria accountable because of its preeminent position in Lebanon. On the downside, the Soviets could try to use such an initiative in disingenuous ways with Damascus, perhaps to strengthen their own position there or to launch a major propaganda blitz in the Arab world against the U.S. and Israel. On balance, we believe that it is worth getting Moscow's attention.

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NLS F97-059/2 #95

BY smj, NARA, DATE 3/21/06

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SYSTEM II
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We have prepared a notional demarche at Tab A for your consideration.

Jack Matlock concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the draft oral demarche at Tab A. to the Soviet

Approve PCW

Disapprove _____

Attachment

Tab A Proposed Demarche

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ID 8590698

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CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

RECEIVED 20 JUN 85 14

TO PRESIDENT

FROM MCFARLANE

DOC DATE 20 JUN 85

*W-3M
9/17/99*

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM

LEBANON

HIJACKING

SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO BEIRUT HOSTAGE SITUATION

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

DUE:

STATUS IX FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

PRESIDENT

COMMENTS

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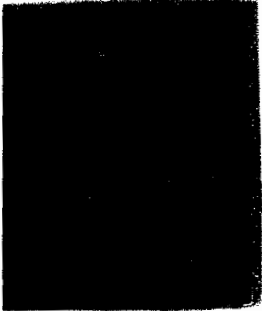
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 20, 1985

Brian,

RCM handcarried original
of attached to the President
at his 0930 today. Perhaps
we should give it a SY II #
and put in file. What do you
think?

Wilma



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SYSTEM II
90698

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

June 20, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBERT C. McFARLANE *RCM*

SUBJECT: Alternative Solutions to the Beirut Hostage Situation

1. UN-Protecting Power Approach. This approach would call for our agreeing to a proposal by the UNSYG to undertake to find a "protecting power" to take custody of the US hostages in Lebanon. Once the hostages were released to the protecting power, then as a separate matter, the UN would invite Israel to turn over the Ansar prisoners to UNIFIL in Lebanon.

2. US-Algerian Variant. A slightly different approach would call for us to find an Arab country (e.g. Algeria) to intervene with Lebanon to ask that the hostages be released to them. This removes the onus from Barri of giving the hostages back to the US directly. For this to succeed, however, Algeria would have to be able to provide Barri some confidence (but without formal guarantee) that once the hostages were released, Israel would return the Ansar prisoners to Lebanon. (In this context it is useful to note that under Israeli law, prisoners cannot be held beyond a certain time -- July 3 with regard to the Ansar prisoners -- without being formally charged with a crime. Thus that date becomes an action forcing date. Israel could well decide to charge and try certain of the prisoners. That decision turns more on Israeli politics than the merits in the case at hand.)

3. Syrian Approach. There is evidence that Syria asserted its influence as early as last Friday with Barri to take control of the hijacking, seeing it as a means to establish Barri -- through giving him a political victory -- as Syria's "man in Lebanon." If this is true, and if Assad's tentative interest in "helping" reflected in his message to you is real, then this option could be pursued either through another letter from you or through your sending an emissary publicly or privately to close the deal.

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BY RM, NARA, DATE 3/21/06

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RECEIVED 19 JUN 85 09

TO MCFARLANE

FROM NORTH

DOC DATE 18 JUN 85

TEICHER

18 JUN 85

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM

HIJACKING

CONGRESSIONAL

LEBANON

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR SENATE UPDATE ON TWA 847 HIJACKING

ACTION: FOR DECISION

DUE:

STATUS X

FILES SII

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MCFARLANE

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

85 JUN 19 A 7: 04

June 18, 1985

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH
HOWARD R. TEICHER

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Senate Update on the Hijacking
of TWA #847

Tomorrow morning at 11:00 a.m. you are scheduled to brief Senate members (Rm S-407) on the current situation with regards to the hijacking. Talking points for your use are attached at Tab I. These are the same talking points prepared for your breakfast. You may wish to withhold the more sensitive information.

RECOMMENDATION

That you use the points at Tab I during your briefing.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment

Tab I - Talking Points

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BY Amf, NARA, DATE 3/21/06

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TALKING POINTS

Current Situation 2030, June 18, 1985
Hijacking of TWA #847

- The terrorists have apparently separated the aircraft hostages into at least two groups--one held by Amal and another by Hizballah. There is, however, some unconfirmed reporting that they may have been separated into several smaller groups.
- The terrorists still aboard the aircraft are giving signs of increasing frustration and have communicated with the Beirut tower a threat to blow up the aircraft or fly it to Tel Aviv on a suicide mission. We now have new information that the aircraft has been fueled and that explosives have been brought aboard.
- The terrorists aboard the aircraft have also threatened to blow up the airport control tower if Berri asks to release more hostages.
- At least five American citizens with official passports, military ID's, and/or Jewish names are apparently under the direct control of Hizballah at an unknown location.
- Negotiations between the hijackers (radical Amal and Hizballah and Berri) do not appear to be progressing. Both Berri and the hijackers seem to be determined to press hard on the Israel POW issue.

FOIA(b) (1)

Analysis/Assessment by North/Teicher (supported by [REDACTED] State)

- Berri appears to be trying to satisfy both the U.S. and the radical Shia community. This is a most dangerous game in which Berri is telling us what we want to hear, while he publicly makes the case for the hijackers demands (Israeli POWs).
- Berri's effort seems to be to increase his personal prestige and influence in the Shia community at large. While he may genuinely want the release of our citizens, he does not want to further weaken his own credibility in an increasingly radicalized Shia population.

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By 21m, NARA, Date 3/21/06

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- Berri's involvement changes the dynamic of the hijacking into a more generalized hostage problem. The resolution of which depends upon the broader Shia power struggle inside Lebanon. Berri's principal opponents in Amal and certainly those in Hizballah are likely to limit his flexibility. Mustafah Durani and Basam Talis, radical Amal leaders, are his principal opponents in a prompt resolution. Given their influence in Amal, Berri may well be unable to obtain the release of our hostages.
- In discussions with U.S. officials, Berri's claims to exercise control over the hijackers are probably exaggerated. In reality, Berri's ability to influence events in a positive direction is probably increasingly limited. While the hijackers appear to be willing to continue to use Berri as an intermediary, it is unlikely that they will be responsive to the compromises he is seeking to make.
- The most radical of the hijackers (probably Hizballah) are clearly motivated by virulent anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli sentiment and are unlikely to listen to reason. Some are undoubtedly "true believers" who would just as soon sacrifice themselves as be a party to concessions to the U.S. These may be the ones aboard the aircraft. Even if the Israelis release the Shia prisoners, there is no guarantee that Hizballah will release the hostages they hold. They may indeed be intent on adding to those they already hold (Buckley, Weir, Jenco, Anderson, Jacobsen, and Kilburn) in order to approach or reach a number of Dawa prisoners held in Kuwait.
- The Kuwaiti Government has publicly "leaked" their intention to execute the three Dawa prisoners condemned to death for the U.S. and French Embassy bombings on December 12, 1983--probably in the next two to three weeks. Two of the three condemned are members of the Mousawa family from the Baalbek.
- Since the first meeting with the hijackers, the Dawa prisoners have not been mentioned in any discourse. Berri has reportedly said that this is a non-issue, since the Kuwaitis have "already shown their unwillingness to give in under pressure."

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Summary

- The Israeli military intelligence and MOD have been advised of the possibility that the TWA aircraft may launch and head for Tel Aviv.

FOIA(b) (1)

- President Reagan's announcement of preventive steps (travel advisory, armed sky marshals, and sanctions against international airlines whose governments do not comply with adequate safety/prosecution criteria) have been criticized as inadequate.
- At this point, we seem to have few options other than buying time with the Nabbi Berri negotiations and hoping for a favorable outcome.
- We could, however, consider the following additional initiatives:

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WJP 6/17/94

RECEIVED 19 JUN 85 09

TO MCFARLANE

FROM NORTH

DOC DATE 18 JUN 85

TEICHER

18 JUN 85

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM

HIJACKING

SHULTZ, G

LEBANON

WEINBERGER, C

SUBJECT: BREAKFAST ITEM RE TWA 847 HIJACKING

ACTION: FOR DECISION

DUE:

STATUS X

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FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

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MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 18, 1985

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH
HOWARD R. TEICHER

SUBJECT: S-W-M Breakfast Item: Hijacking

RCM HAS SEEN

One of the items on the breakfast agenda is an update on the hostage situation in Lebanon. The talking points at Tab I are derived from all source information available as of 2030 June 18.

RECOMMENDATION

That you use the talking points attached at Tab I during tomorrow morning's breakfast.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment

Tab I - Talking Points

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By msn NARA, Date 9/17/09

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TALKING POINTS

Current Situation 2030, June 18, 1985
Hijacking of TWA #847

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FOIA(b)(1)

Analysis/Assessment by North/Teicher (supported by [REDACTED] State)

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DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLS F97-059/2 1499

By amf, NARA, Date 3/21/06

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Summary

- The Israeli military intelligence and MOD have been advised of the possibility that the TWA aircraft may launch and head for Tel Aviv.

FOIA(b) (1)

- President Reagan's announcement of preventive steps (travel advisory, armed sky marshals, and sanctions against international airlines whose governments do not comply with adequate safety/prosecution criteria) have been criticized as inadequate.
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- We could, however, consider the following additional initiatives:

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