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(Press Secretary, Office of the)

SERIES: IV: SUBJECT FILE

Folder Title: TWA Hijacking/Hostages, June 1985
(4 of 9)

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name Sims, Robert: Files

Withdrawer

RBW 3/2/2011

File Folder TWA HIJACKING/HOSTAGES (4 OF 9)

FOIA

F97-046/4

Box Number CF0467

WILLS

46

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
106182	FAX COVER		1	6/25/1985	B1 B3
106183	PAPER	RE. HIJACKING UPDATE [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106182]	2	6/25/1985	B1 B3
106184	PAPER	RE. HIJACKING UPDATE	2	6/25/1985	B1 B3
106185	REPORT	RE. HIJACKING [ANNOTATED]	1	6/25/1985	B1
106186	REPORT	RE. HIJACKING	1	6/25/1985	B1
106187	REPORT	RE. HIJACKING [COPY OF DOC. 106175; ATTACHED TO DOC. 106186]	1	6/24/1985	B1
106188	PAPER	RE. PRESSURE ON TERRORISTS	3	ND	B1 B3
106189	PROFS	RE. CALL FROM FAA	1	6/26/1985	B1
106190	REPORT	RE. HIJACKING	1	6/26/1985	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

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

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
106191	REPORT	RE. HIJACKING	1	6/26/1985	B1
106192	MEMO	DONALD FORTIER TO MICHAEL ARMACOST, FRED IKLE, CLAIR GEORGE, ET AL, RE. CPPG MTG.	1	6/26/1985	B1 B3
106193	CHART	RE. ACTION [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106192]	1	6/26/1985	B1 B3
106195	CABLE	RE. TALKING PTS. FOR VICE PRESIDENT	3	6/26/1985	B1
106196	MEMO	NICHOLAS PLATT TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE. TRANSMITTAL OF PAPERS	1	6/26/1985	B1
106197	PAPER	[RE. INSTRUCTIONS; ATTACHED TO DOC. 106196]	1	ND	B1
106200	CABLE	RE. VICE PRESIDENT TALKING PTS. [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106197]	3	6/26/1985	B1
106202	CABLE	RE. MESSAGE FROM SEC. SHULTZ ON BEIRUT [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106200]	3	6/25/1985	B1

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106203	CABLE	RE. SHULTZ LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTERS	4	6/25/1985	B1
106205	CABLE	RE. AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM BEIRUT [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106203]	2	6/26/1985	B1
106208	NOTES	RE. CPPG MTG.	1	6/26/1985	B1 B3
106210	CABLE	MOSCOW 08623	4	6/26/1985	B1

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106183	PAPER	2	6/25/1985	B1 B3
	RE. HIJACKING UPDATE [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106182]			

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	RE. HIJACKING UPDATE			B3

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106185	REPORT RE. HIJACKING [ANNOTATED]	1	6/25/1985	B1

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National Security Council
The White House

Sims

System # _____

Package # _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	_____	_____	_____
William Martin	1	WFM	_____
John Poindexter	2	<i>[Signature]</i>	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Wilma Hall	_____	_____	_____
Bud McFarlane	_____	_____	_____
William Martin	3	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	4	Yes, good format. This is	N
Situation Room	_____	very good. After the	copy list
	7:30	it should go to our	_____

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

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other *Task Force, Jim & Small.*

→ SIT Room, Pearson, & table.

COMMENTS JmP TASK Should be seen by: *Forie members + Sims + Small.* (Date/Time)

STATE has begun providing the attached unclassified situation report/public diplomacy guidance on a daily basis. It will arrive at 5:30 to allow it to be sent with RCM's driver. I've told the SIT RM to limit initial distribution to RCM, You and me. At the 7:30 staff meeting we could, as appropriate, provide copy to Sims and augment it with further guidance. Is the attached a good format?

↓
Bill - this is useful format and we've been using it each day, especially for initial morning TV calls, which begin at 5:30 AM. I've been checking content with Bud for guidance when we have a particularly hot topic or I have questions about how State has phrased it. PLEASE don't change system so that I can't get it until after 7:30.
Bob

SITREP

Since yesterday Nabih Berri has put forth a new demand, that U.S. naval ships pull back from the waters off the Lebanese Coast.

Meanwhile, CBS and other U.S. networks have obtained and aired a videotape interview with eight of the hostages - none of whom were from the group initially taken off the hijacked plane.

There are conflicting reports about who has actual physical control of the hostages, but we consider Nabih Berri, Minister of Justice and leader of the Lebanese Shiite community to be responsible for the safety and release of the TWA hostages.

U.S. POLICY

-- We will not make concessions to terrorists and we will not ask others to do so. Conceding to terrorists is tantamount to giving in to blackmailers.

-- We will not change our policies in response to terrorists threats or demands. To do so only encourages more terrorism which further endangers innocent persons.

HIJACKER DEMANDS

-- hijackers demand release of Lebanese Shiites detained in Israel, before the TWA hostages are released. We firmly reject this linkage. TWA hostages should be released forthwith without conditions.

We believe the Israeli transfer of Shiite prisoners from Lebanon to Atlit was inconsistent with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Israel's policy on returning prisoners to Lebanon is a matter of record. Release of 31 prisoners June 24 is in line with that policy. We did not ask the Government of Israel to release them. We have no comment on this action.

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

-- We are in close contact with Nabih Berri and other Lebanese leaders.

-- We are in close touch with governments in the Arab world, Europe, and ourselves. Many governments and international organizations have already issued statements condemning the hijacking and hostage-taking.

U.S MILITARY OPERATIONS

-- All U.S. Navy vessels operating in the Eastern Mediterranean are in international waters.

for R. K.
Drafted: TF: NEJohnson
6/25/85 x6610
WANG 1234A

Cleared: TF:
NEA/ARN
NEA:
M/CTP
S/S: KQuinn

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106186	REPORT RE. HIJACKING	1	6/25/1985	B1

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106187	REPORT RE. HIJACKING [COPY OF DOC. 106175; ATTACHED TO DOC. 106186]	1	6/24/1985	B1

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SITREP

There were no significant developments overnight. The plane remains on the ground at Beirut International Airport. We believe the three crewmen are on board and that the other 37 TWA hostages are in South Beirut.

There are conflicting reports about who has actual physical control of the hostages. We consider Nabih Berri, Minister of Justice and leader of the Lebanese Shiite community, to be responsible for the safety and release of the TWA hostages.

U.S. POLICY

- We will not make concessions to terrorists and we will not ask others to do so. Conceding to terrorists is tantamount to giving in to blackmailers.
- We will not change our policies in response to terrorist threats or demands. To do so only encourages more terrorism which further endangers innocent persons.

HIJACKER DEMANDS

- Hijackers demand release of Lebanese Shiites detained in Israel, before the TWA hostages are released. We firmly reject this linkage. TWA hostages should be released forthwith, without conditions.
 - o We believe the Israeli transfer of Shiite prisoners from Lebanon to Atlit was inconsistent with the Fourth Geneva Convention.
 - o Israel's policy on returning prisoners to Lebanon is a matter of record. Release of 31 prisoners June 24 is in line with that policy. We have no comment on this action by Government of Israel.
 - o We did not ask Government of Israel to release the 31.

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

- We are in close contact with Nabih Berri and other Lebanese leaders.
- Government of Algeria has been active since beginning of hijacking. We are in close touch with Government of Syria. Austrian, Swiss and Swedish Governments and International Committee of the Red Cross have all offered to assist in resolving situation.

- Many governments in the Arab world, in Europe, the Far East, Africa and South America as well as the United Nations and Organization of the Islamic Conference have issued or intend to issue statements condemning the hijacking and hostage-taking. Others have made their views known to us privately.

U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS

- All U.S. Navy vessels operating in the Eastern Mediterranean are in international waters.
- U.S. is not using TWA hijacking as a pretext for a military build-up in the Middle East.

HOSTAGE FAMILIES

- State Department officials telephone families of hostages twice a day, giving them news and information.

Drafted:TF:NEJohnson(Jr)/NEJ

6/25/85 x661U

WANG 1234A-3

Cleared:TF:

NEA/AMN:(Jr)/HMAK

NEA:

M/CTP:

S/S:XQuinn

571

145

June 25, 1985

HIJACKING SITUATION

The President, in the meeting with his advisers yesterday, set in motion the development of a series of measures that could increase the pressures on those holding our citizens and those who support the terrorists. Those measures have been developed, and will be reviewed by the President today, with the expectation that some decisions will be made. We do reserve to ourselves decisions on matters to bring greater pressure to bear on the situation.

Does this mean possibly cutting off goods and services to Beirut and the use of the airport?

Yes. *One option among many.* Be prepared to take whatever actions are necessary.

Peres letter to the President?

Not necessarily military.

We don't as a rule comment on diplomatic exchanges, but we are in close touch with the Israeli government.

Israeli's planning to release more prisoners on a regular basis?

Don't know. Their decision.

Assad role?

We are in close contact with the Government of Syria. Assad has expressed a wish to be helpful and is in a position to be helpful, but we have seen no apparent moves on the part of the Syrians -- no tangible evidence -- that they are actually being helpful.

Reaction to latest hostage tapes?

A reprehensible attempt to play on the anguish of those families whose loved ones were not shown. The television portrayal provides no basis for satisfaction about the condition of the people who were shown. They were obviously under stress. We consider this an attempt to evade the issue, which is the fundamental barbarism of holding innocent people against their will.

Hostages moved to Bekaa Valley?

We believe the three crewmen are on board the plane at Beirut International Airport and that the other 37 are in South Beirut.

4

MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS

The Department of Defense has identified the victim of the terrorist hijacking of TWA Flight 847. The dead man has been identified as Steelworker Second-Class (Diver) Robert Dean Stethem, USN, of Waldorf, Maryland. The body has been positively identified, using information from service and medical records, by officials at the United States Air Force Base, Torrejon, Spain. SW2 Stethem was attached to Navy Underwater Construction Team One in Norfolk, Virginia. Next-of-kin have been notified. No further information is available at present.

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106188	PAPER RE. PRESSURE ON TERRORISTS	3	ND	B1 B3

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 3805
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 0691

UNCLAS GENEVA 06044

DEPT FOR TWA HIJACKING TASK FORCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC PTER PREL EAIR LE US
SUBJECT: TWA HIJACKING: ICRC VISIT TO THE AMERICAN
-- HOSTAGES

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF JUNE 26 ICRC PRESS RELEASE
CONCERNING THE VISIT BY ICRC REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
HOSTAGES IN BEIRUT. BEGIN TEXT:

DURING THE NIGHT OF 25/26 JUNE 1985, 37 TWA PASSENGERS
HELD AS HOSTAGE WERE VISITED IN BEIRUT BY A DOCTOR AND
DELEGATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED
CROSS (ICRC). THE 3 CREW MEMBERS WERE ALSO SEEN IN
THEIR AIRCRAFT. THE ICRC DELEGATES WERE ABLE TO HAVE
INTERVIEWS WITHOUT WITNESSES WITH THE HOSTAGES.
NOTE: NO OTHER INFORMATION ON THIS VISIT WILL BE MADE
PUBLIC BY THE ICRC. END OF TEXT.

2. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. (DRAFTED BY RPERITO: HR)
CARMEN
BT

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106190	REPORT RE. HIJACKING	1	6/26/1985	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

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

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106191	REPORT RE. HIJACKING	1	6/26/1985	B1

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106192	MEMO DONALD FORTIER TO MICHAEL ARMACOST, FRED IKLE, CLAIR GEORGE, ET AL, RE. CPPG MTG.	1	6/26/1985	B1 B3

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106193	CHART RE. ACTION [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106192]	1	6/26/1985	B1 B3

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Washington, D.C. 20520

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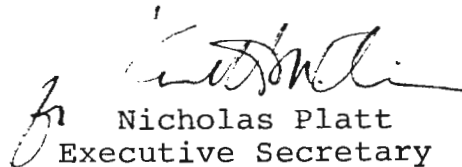
~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

June 26, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Talking Points for the Vice President

Attached at Tab 1 are additional talking points for the Vice President to use in discussing the role of Syria in the hostage crisis.


Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Talking points

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
DECL: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
Dept. of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
BY RW NARA, DATE 3/2/11

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106195 CABLE	RE. TALKING PTS. FOR VICE PRESIDENT	3	6/26/1985	B1

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106196	MEMO NICHOLAS PLATT TO ROBERT MCFARLANE RE. TRANSMITTAL OF PAPERS	1	6/26/1985	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

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106197	PAPER	1	ND	B1

[RE. INSTRUCTIONS; ATTACHED TO DOC. 106196]

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

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106200 CABLE	RE. VICE PRESIDENT TALKING PTS. [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106197]	3	6/26/1985	B1

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106202	CABLE RE. MESSAGE FROM SEC. SHULTZ ON BEIRUT [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106200]	3	6/25/1985	B1

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106203	CABLE RE. SHULTZ LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTERS	4	6/25/1985	B1

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106205	CABLE RE. AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM BEIRUT [ATTACHED TO DOC. 106203]	2	6/26/1985	B1

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106208	NOTES RE. CPPG MTG.	1	6/26/1985	B1 B3

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106210 CABLE	MOSCOW 08623	4	6/26/1985	B1

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