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Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name COUNTERTERRORISM AND NARCOTICS, NSC:
RECORDS

Withdrawer

SMF 12/12/2007

File Folder HOSTAGES: FRENCH (1)

FOIA

S2007-081

Box Number ~~92289~~ RA Bo 8

NOUZILLE

18

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
46618	INDEX	TO HOSTAGE FILE	2	ND	B1
46619	CABLE	311307Z DEC 86 R 4/9/2010 NLRRM2007-081	2	12/31/1986	B1
46620	MEMO	RE PROPOSED QUESTIONS	1	ND	B1
46621	LIST	QUESTIONS	2	ND	B1
46622	CABLE	021432Z JAN 87	10	1/2/1987	B1
46623	MEMO	QUESTIONS	19	1/5/1987	B1
46624	MEMO	COY/EARL TO KEEL RE HOSTAGE STRATEGY AND INITIATIVES R 8/10/2012 M081/1	2	12/22/1986	B1
46625	MEMO	RE INITIATIVES ON AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON PAR 8/10/2012 M081/1	3	ND	B1
46626	MEMO	TO SHULTZ RE AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON R 6/25/2010 MR081/1	1	ND	B1

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

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46620	MEMO RE PROPOSED QUESTIONS	1	ND	B1

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46621	LIST QUESTIONS	2	ND	B1

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46623	MEMO QUESTIONS	19	1/5/1987	B1

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 8, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR BARRY KELLY

FROM: CRAIG P. COY 

SUBJECT: Items of Interest

Attached at Tab A is a memo to Dr. Keel that was sent forward and is still pending, as far as I know.

Tab B is a copy of items we gave to Peter Rodman for inclusion in the Carlucci Briefing Book. These are "in general" issues.

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Section 35

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FRIAR

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, DC 20505

SYSTEM IV
40439

December 22, 1986

46624

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ALTON G. KEEL

FROM: ROBERT L. EARL *E*
CRAIG P. COYC *C*

SUBJECT: Hostage Strategy and Initiatives

With the public revelation of the Iranian connection, the Administration needs to assess its strategy and review the initiatives aimed at gaining the release of our hostages held in Lebanon. Attached at Tab I is a summary of various efforts made on behalf of the hostages that are in some way considered current.

Any attempt to win the freedom of the hostages must fall in the context of our established terrorism policy and of our overall foreign policy in the region. We must also understand that despite our efforts the hostages may not be freed because the captors will be unable to achieve their "political victory" by releasing them. In our view, the three possible scenarios for gaining the hostages' freedom are: (1) through third-country intervention (e.g. Syria or Iran); (2) through direct or indirect contact with the captors; or, (3) through a well-planned rescue operation.

The willingness of third-world countries to intercede will be determined by the degree of benefit they derive from their intercession. Only Iran and Syria have sufficient influence in Lebanon to merit consideration. Iran may yet find improved relations with the United States of such national interest that it might exert sufficient pressure on Hizballah to release the hostages. We should certainly continue to remind Iran that little is possible in the way of improving relations with us unless they exert the influence they have to get our hostages released. Syria, on the other hand, is under international pressure to alter its terrorist image, and may choose to reduce their isolation by helping on the hostages.

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BY *kw* NARA DATE *8/10/12*

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Israel could also provide a degree of assistance with the hostage situation. Because of its own prisoners in Lebanon, it has been considered that the release of the detained Shia held by Israel and the South Lebanese Army (SLA) could lead to the freedom of the Israeli hostage(s) as well as Americans. There are several hundred Shia prisoners held by Lahad. In May 1985, Israel exchanged 1,100 Shia and Palestinian prisoners for three Israelis held by PFLP-GC. They also released 300 Shia prisoners in August 1985 at the time of the TWA #847 hijacking.

Contact with the elusive captors remains one of our principal goals. However, Terry Waite remains the only legitimate intermediary known to have met with the captors. Other would-be interlocutors have failed to establish any bona fides. Confidential exchanges of information and coordination of efforts with Waite should be continued.

Any attempted rescue operation will be high risk and must be meticulously planned. Exact location of the hostages remains the unobtained piece of that option. Contingency plans have progressed to the point that the NSPG should be briefed in order to permit a rapid decision if the location of the hostages is discovered. A recommendation to schedule the briefing will be submitted to Mr. Carlucci shortly after his arrival.

In order to assess fully our strategy and any future approach to free the hostages, the State Department should lead a review and submit a plan to the President. Despite the recent disclosures we cannot lose our capacity to care for our citizens nor can we forget about their plight. Attached at Tab II is a memo from you to Shultz asking for such a review with the DCI's Hostage Location Task Force (HLTF), Defense, Justice, and NSC participation.

Dr
Dennis Ross and Ron St. Martin concur. *C for*

RECOMMENDATION

1. That you brief the President on the initiatives at Tab I.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

2. That you sign the letter to Shultz at Tab II.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I

Initiatives on American Hostages in Lebanon

Tab II

Keel Memo to Shultz

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SYSTEM 3V
40439

INITIATIVES ON AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON

Besides the recently exposed efforts with Iran to gain the release of the Americans held hostage in Lebanon, there have been several other initiatives. Despite the numerous diplomatic, private, and clandestine attempts to gain the release of the hostages, the fact is none have proven effective except the Iranian channel. We are aware of the following initiatives that could be considered current.

Diplomatic

The U.S. Government has approached several countries to solicit their assistance in gaining access to either the captors of the hostages or those who have influence over the captors.

Syria -- State Department has made numerous demarches to the government of Syria seeking their assistance. Syria has also been approached by the French government on behalf of their hostages in Lebanon.

Japan -- The President has asked Prime Minister Nakasone to use his government's offices in Iran to persuade the Iranian government to release the hostages. There has been contact through NSC and State Department in this regard. As a result the Japanese Ambassador has met with the Iranian Assembly Speaker Rafsanjani on the hostage issue. The Japanese have urged Iran's cooperation on humanitarian grounds with no mention of military equipment.

Algeria -- State Department in the past has approached the Algerian government seeking their cooperation to exert influence on the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and other groups in Lebanon. The French government has also approached Algeria and believe them to be in an effective conduit. This effort has not proven effective, however, there is some discussion at the State Department to again approach the Algerians.

France -- State Department [REDACTED] have sought to work with the French as they seek to release their hostages held in Lebanon.

[REDACTED] however there has been no substantive support by the French.

France has recognized that Iran is the key to gaining the release of the hostages. On November 22, 1986, they repaid Iran \$330M of the \$1B in Iranian funds sequestered following the Shah's fall. Negotiations between France and Iran regarding terms for the repayment of the remaining \$670M were to have taken place in December.

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France is also using other channels to pursue release of its hostages, primarily through Algeria. [REDACTED] the latest two French hostages released by Syria were, in fact, turned over to the Syrians by Hizballah.

[REDACTED]

Pakistan -- President Zia raised the issue of American hostages with Iranian President Khomeini in Islamabad in January 1986. No results were evident.

[REDACTED]

The Vatican -- The Holy See has made several representations in Lebanon and Syria to gain the release of the hostages. These efforts have included Cardinal O'Connor and Vatican Foreign Minister Archbishop Silvestrini, as well as support to Terry Waite's mission.

Private Initiatives

Many individuals have sought to gain the release of the hostages in Lebanon. These include Congressional delegations, private U.S. citizens, and foreign nationals. Many of these are undertaken without U.S. Government knowledge or acquiescence and none of them have proven to be fruitful.

Iranian Intermediaries -- Ghorbanifar, Kangarlu, Bahremani, et. al. remain active in various discussions and maneuvers within Iran to attempt to persuade the Lebanese Shia hostage holders to release more American hostages on humanitarian grounds. The Israelis [REDACTED] and have been pressing the argument that now is the time for the Iranian side to demonstrate that the release of hostages held in Lebanon was not a quid-pro-quo for arms shipments but part of a broader understanding. Unfortunately, the Washington Post disclosure of the sharing of U.S. intelligence with Iraq has enraged the Iranians and has virtually ensured that no progress will be made in this channel for the immediate future.

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Terry Waite -- The emissary of the Archbishop of Canterbury, remains the only known intermediary to have met with the captors of the hostages in Beirut. He had worked closely with North and it is uncertain now how his efforts will succeed in the future. We should continue a close working relationship with Waite and not permit his role as an interlocutor with Lebanese spiritual leaders to be lost.

Peggy Say -- The sister of hostage Terry Anderson, has made several trips to the region in an effort to gain the release of the hostages. Her initiatives have included contacts with Syria, Algeria, Greece, and various Lebanese. She has been joined in this effort by Chuck Lewis, the President of the Associated Press, Terry Anderson's parent organization. Her latest proposal is to travel to Iran.

Dr. Mohammad Mehdi and Dale Shaheen -- Two officials of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, recently travelled to Damascus and Beirut to meet with Syrian officials and the kidnappers. Initial reporting [REDACTED] is that their effort was unsuccessful and unlikely to be successful. Dr. Mehdi has requested a meeting with U.S. officials on the hostages which took place on December 19 at the State Department [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Many other individuals have attempted to associate themselves with the release of the hostages. Our initial response in each of these cases has been for them to produce some evidence or bona fides of their ability to gain access to the captors. To date none have been able to produce reliable and authoritative information.

Some of these individuals are Brian Jenkins (Rand Corporation and Catholic Relief Service), Cardinal John O'Connor (Catholic Archbishop of New York), Representative Robert Dornan, Rafiq Hariri (a wealthy Lebanese businessman), Max Binswanger (a purported friend of the President), Al Zaretz [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Antony Haden-Guest (British writer on the subject of Middle East drug trafficking), Allyn Conwell (former TWA #847 hostage), and many other crackpots and walk-ins.

Military

The Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) [REDACTED] have been preparing contingency plans for a possible military rescue of the hostages. For operational security reasons, this remains an extremely sensitive initiative. Because we lack definitive intelligence on the location of the hostages, this option is not currently possible. The DCI [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has worked exhaustively on this problem for a year.

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46627

TERRORISM

- o International terrorism is on the forefront of the Administration's foreign policy agenda. The revelations and speculations surrounding the Iran initiative have raised doubts in some quarters over the sincerity of our terrorism policy.

The Policy

- o The President has reiterated in public and through several NSDD's our firm policy of opposing all forms of terrorism. The U.S. government will make no concessions to terrorists. It will not pay ransoms, release prisoners, change its policies or agree to other acts that might encourage additional terrorism.

The Record

- o The Administration has earned an admirable record in building multilateral support, bilateral cooperation, and strong interagency coordination in combatting terrorism.
- o Following the TWA 847 hijacking the Vice President's Task Force on Combatting Terrorism systematically reviewed all aspects of our policy, resources, organization, and laws. NSDD-207 endorsed the Task Force findings and directed the implementation of all Task Force recommendations, including the establishment of a full-time NSC position to strengthen coordination of the national program.
- o Significant milestones in the Administration's role in combatting terrorism include: the September 1985 UN Resolution condemning terrorism; the April 1986 raid on Libyan terrorist targets; the May 1986 Economic Summit Declaration on terrorism and Libya; and the strengthening of bilateral ties with European allies through diplomatic, military, and intelligence exchanges.

Future Initiatives

- o Because of the Iran affair, we must seek every opportunity to emphasize our commitment to our stated policy on terrorism. Quiet, behind-the-scenes consultation and cooperation with European and moderate Arab states are necessary ingredients to a renewed campaign against international terrorism.

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BY CJ NARA DATE 4/9/10

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