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Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name NORTH, OLIVER: FILES

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File Folder

HOSTAGES: FRENCH HOSTAGES (3)

FOIA

S2007-081

Danie Marinologia

MOLIZILLE

Box Number	10	NOUZILLE			
ID Doc Type	Document Description	-	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
53208 CABLE	261723Z JUN 86		2	6/26/1986	B1 B3
53211 CABLE	271719Z JUN 86		2	6/27/1986	B1 B3
53212 CABLE	271443Z JUN 86 R 4/9/2010	NLRRM2007-081	2	6/27/1986	B1
53215 CABLE	271436Z JUN 86 R 4/9/2010	NLRRM2007-081	2	6/27/1986	B1
53216 CABLE	010732Z JUL 86 R 4/9/2010	NLRRM2007-081	3	7/1/1986	B1
53221 CABLE	271832Z JUN 86		4	6/27/1986	B1 B3
53223 MEMO	RE HOSTAGES		3	6/27/1986	B1
53225 CABLE	300406Z JUN 86 R 4/9/2010	NLRRM2007-081	1	6/30/1986	B1
53226 REPORT	RE HOSTAGES		4	7/1/1986	B1 B3
53230 PROF NOTE	FROM RODMAN RE GIR. R 4/9/2010	AUD VISIT <i>NLRRM2007-081</i>	1	7/2/1986	B1

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

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B-7 Release would disclose Information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA] B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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ID Doc Type	Doc	ument Descripti	on	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
53235 CABLE	03112	28Z JUL 86		2	7/3/1986	B1
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53237 CABLE	2810	10Z JUN 86		3	6/28/1986	B1
	R	4/9/2010	NLRRM2007-081			
53240 CABLE	07194	46Z JUL 86		3	7/7/1986	B1
	R	4/9/2010	NLRRM2007-081			
53241 CABLE	07194	46Z JUL 86		7	7/7/1986	B1
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53242 MEMO	TO A	SSISTANT TO TH	IE PRESIDENT FOR	5	7/10/1986	B1 B3
	NAT	IONAL SECURITY	Y AFFAIRS, ET AL			

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ID	Document Type	No of Doc Date	Restric-
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53208 CABLE

261723Z JUN 86

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53211 CABLE

2 6/27/1986

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532/2

PAGE Ø1 OF Ø2 PARIS 9757 SITØ64 DTG: 271443Z JUN 86 PSN: Ø5Ø433

TOR: 178/1458Z

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PRIORITY UTS9034 DE RUFHFR #9757 1781443 P 271443Z JUN 86 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0929

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 3685 AMEMBASSY LONDON 4015

S E C # E T PARIS 29757

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PTER, LE, FR, SY, IR SUBJECT: FRENCH HOSTAGES

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

- AN ARAB JOURNALIST WITH GOOD SOURCES IN THE GOF TOLD US RECENTLY THAT THE FRENCH HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY THE IDENTITY OF THE TWO HOSTAGES RELEASED OVER THE WEEKEND. GOF HAD BEEN EXPECTING RELEASE OF SOME OR ALL OF THE "LONG-TERM" HOSTAGES (E.G., KAUFFMAN ET AL) RATHER THAN ANY OF THE ANTENNE 2 TEAM, ESPECIALLY AS THE FORMER WERE KNOWN TO BE UNDER HIZBALLAH/IRANIAN CONTROL, AND THE FRENCH HAD BEEN DEALING WITH THE FRENCH ARE NOW SPECULATING THAT THE IRANIANS. IRANIANS PASSED THE WORD TO THE SYRIANS THAT THEY--THE IRANIANS -- WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF ISLAMIC AMAL, WHICH IS MORE OR LESS UNDER SYRIAN MILITARY INFLUENCE, WERE TO RELEASE SOME OF ITS TV CREW. (ALTERNATIVELY, THE SYRIANS MAY HAVE MOVED WITHOUT IRANIAN BLESSING, ALTHOUGH THIS, SAID THE JOURNALIST, IS UNLIKELY.) JOURNALIST COMMENTED THAT IN HIS VIEW, IRANIANS AGREED TO THIS ARRANGEMENT IN ORDER TO "STRING ALONG" THE FRENCH WITHOUT ACTUALLY HAVING TO GIVE UP ANY HOSTAGES HELD BY HIZBALLAH.
- 3. JOURNALIST SAID TVZI LJJV SEVERAL FACTORS (#)
 THAT GROUP HOLDING THE ANTENNE 2 TEAM IS
 NON-HIZBALLAH. ANNOUNCEMENT BY "ORGANIZATION OF
 REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE," FOR EXAMPLE, REFERRED TO "THE
 NATION OF HIZBALLAH," WHEREAS AN IRANIAN GROUP WOULD
 PRESUMABLY HAVE REFERRED TO "THE NATION OF ISLAM"
 INSTEAD, OR SOME SUCH VARIATION. IN ADDITION,
 RELEASED HOSTAGES THEMSELVES MENTIONED HAVING BEEN
 GIVEN FRENCH LITERATURE AND ROMANCE NOVELS TO READ
 WHILE IN CAPTIVITY--HARDLY THE USUAL HIZBALLAH
 HANDOUTS. FINALLY, THE RELEASED HOSTAGES SAID THAT
 THEY HAD NO CONTACT WITH THEIR GUARDS, WHEREAS
 HIZBALLAH GUARDS TRADITIONALLY TRY TO PROSELYTIZE.
- 4. JOURNALIST SAID THAT REVOLUTIONARY GUARD LEADER RAFIZ DUST IS IN OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE HOSTAGE AFFAIR IN TEHRAN, ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER VELAYATI NOMINALLY HOLDS THE PORTFOLIO. WITHIN THE GOF, HE SARY CHIEF OF PRIME MINISTER'S "DIPLOMATIC CELL,"

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SECRET

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FRANCOIS BUJON DE L'ESTANG, IS IN DAY-TO-DAY CONTROL.

5. JOURNALIST SAID THAT THERE IS STILL A SIGNIFICANT GROUP WITHIN GOF WHICH BELIEVES THAT THE IRANIANS WILL NEGOTIATE INDEFINITELY WITHOUT RELEASING "THEIR" HOSTAGES. (JOURNALIST HIMSELF HOLDS THIS POSITION.) DESPITE FRENCH PUBLIC OPTIMISM, HE SAID, LARGE GAPS REMAIN IN THE EURODIF NEGOTIATING POSITIONS, WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, THE IRANIANS MAINTAINING THAT THE SHAH'S DEBT IS \$2 BILLION, WITH THE FRENCH OPENING AT \$1.4. DIFFERENCES EXIST AS WELL OVER HOW MUCH IS OWED IN DAMAGES TO FRENCH BUSINESSMEN FORMERLY IN IRAN, AND OVER HOW FAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE (I.E. IN GOODS OR CASH). FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A WEEK, WE ALSO HEARD MENTION OF THE ABILITY OF LAWYERS TO DELAY NEGOTIATIONS INDEFINITELY.

- 6. COMMENT: THIS VERSION--THE SYRIANS HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT AND, AS EMBASSY DAMASCUS HAS NOTED, GETTING THE MOST PR MILEAGE OUT OF IT--SEMS TO TRACK. THE FRENCH, HOWEVER, WILL CONTINUE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE IRANIANS, AS THEY DID IN THIS CASE. WE NOTE THAT ON JUNE 24, CHIRAC PUBLICLY REAFFIRMED FRANCE'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, "ESPECIALLY IRAN."
- 7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT BEIRUT.

RODGERS BT

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PAGE 01 OF 02 NICOSIA 3381 SIT078 DTG: 271436Z JUN 86 PSN: Ø5Ø517 TOR: 178/1552Z

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OP IMMED UTS9224

DE RUQMQG #3381 178145Ø O 271436Z JUN 86 FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5058

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 799 AMEMBASSY LONDON 2547 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2245

S E CAR E T NICOSIA 3381

TERREP EXCLUSIVE

NOF OR N

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PTER, CY, LE SUBJECT: JUNE 21 RELEASE OF CYPRIOT HOSTAGES IN BEIRUT

REF: (A) FBIS NC241718Z JUN 86 (B) NICOSIA 3260 (C) NICOSIA 3023 (D) NICOSIA 2534 (E) STATE 146057 (F) NICOSIA 2423 (G) STATE 142702 (H) NICOSIA 2412 (I) NICOSIA 2390 (J) STATE 140142 (K) NICOSIA 2388 (L) STATE 139322

- 1. SECRET-ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM ON JUNE 26, GOC FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL ANDREAS MAVROMMATIS RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE TWO CYPRIOT STUDENTS WHO WERE RELEASED IN BEIRUT LAST WEEKEND AFTER BEING HELD HOSTAGE FOR ALMOST EIGHT WEEKS. (HE DID SO IN THE CONTEXT OF SEEKING OUR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR THE STUDENTS TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION AT COLLEGES IN THE U.S.). THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK HOW THE GOC HAD ACCOMPLISHED THEIR RELEASE.
- 3. MAVROMMATIS, IN REPLY, CLAIMED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PARTY TO THE ARRANGEMENTS AND COULD NOT STATE WHETHER SOME KIND OF "DEAL", IF ANY, HAD BEEN MADE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD HIS "SUSPICIONS", BY WHICH HE CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT HIZBALLAH, THE GROUP HE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING HELD THE TWO CYPRIOTS, HAD RECEIVED SOME SORT OF GOC CONCESSION IN RETURN FOR RELEASING THEM. AS THE CONVERSATION PROCEEDED, MAVROMMATIS INDICATED THAT THE THREE LARNACA MARINA TERRORISTS NOW LODGED IN NICOSIA CENTRAL PRISON WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SUCH A "DEAL", IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THEIR CRIME. HE SEEMED TO IMPLY, BY THIS, THAT A PROMISE TO RELEASE SAMI ANIS NASER, THE PALESTINIAN WHO WAS CAUGHT TRYING TO SMUGGLE ARMS/MUNITIONS ABOARD A SWISSAIR FLIGHT AT LARNACA AIRPORT LAST DECEMBER AND SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT HERE, WAS THE PRICE PAID BY THE GOC TO HIZBALLAH.

4. MAVROMMATIS ALSO SAID THAT THE GOC SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE INTERROGATING THE TWO CYPRIOT STUDENTS (WHOM HE

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SECRET

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DTG: 271436Z JUN 86 PSN: Ø5Ø517

DESCRIBED AS STILL "DAZED" BY THEIR HOSTAGE EXPERIENCE) IN HOPES OF DEVELOPING MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ABOUT THE IDENTITY/WHEREABOUTS OF THEIR CAPTORS. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THE USG WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WHATEVER INFORMATION RESULTED FROM THIS EFFORT, AND MAVROMMATIS THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE QUITE POSSIBLE. "OUR CHAPS," HE NOTED, "ARE ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHAPS," IN THIS REGARD. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD (BY WHOM WAS NOT CLEAR) THAT THE TWO CYPRIOT STUDENTS HAD REPORTED THAT A PERSON WHO HAD BROUGHT FOOD TO THEM DURING THEIR CAPTIVITY APPEARED TO BE A FELLOW-HOSTAGE--"POSSIBLY AN AMERICAN OR A EUROPEAN," MAVROMMATIS QUOTED THEM AS SAYING. THEY COULD NOT BE SURE. HE CONTINUED, SINCE THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO THE FOOD-SERVER, NOR HE TO THEM.

5. OUR SIRO CHIEF, IN HIS CONTACTS WITH SENIOR CYPRUS POLICE OFFICIALS THIS PAST WEEK, REQUESTED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. OFFICIALS TO INTERVIEW THE TWO STUDENTS. HE REPORTS THAT BOTH DECLINED TO BE INTERVIEWED, AND THAT NEITHER YOUTH HAS SO FAR BEEN WILLING TO PROVIDE A STATEMENT TO THE POLICE THEMSELVES. THE LATTER HAVE TOLD SIRO THAT THE PAIR ARE SCARED STIFF, HAVING BEEN THREATENED BY THEIR CAPTORS WITH DIRE RETRIBUTION ("WE HAVE LONG ARMS") IF THEY DIVULGED DETAILS OF THEIR CAPTIVITY TO ANYONE. THE POLICE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FATHER OF ONE OF THE STUDENTS IS A POLICE INSPECTOR, WHO WILL BE TRYING TO ELICIT MORE DETAILS FROM HIS SON

AS THE LATTER CALMS DOWN IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

6. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. BOEHM

SEGKET

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 03 BEIRUT 3460 SIT482

DTG: 010732Z JUL 86 PSN: 057017

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STU4800
DE RUEHBL #3460 1820733
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INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 2902 AMEMBASSY PARIS 0623 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 7336

S E C R E T BEIRUT Ø346Ø

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL, OADR
TAGS: PREL, PTER, LE
SUBJECT: SAD SAGA OF THE RELEASE OF THE FRENCH
HOSTAGES IN LEBANON

- 1. SENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. CHARGE HAD LONG CANDID TALK WITH FRENCH
 AMBASSADOR, CHRISTIAN GRAEFF, TODAY ON EVENTS
 PRECEDING RECENT RELEASE OF TWO FRENCH HOSTAGES.
 MOST VEXING ASPECT OF RATHER SORDID EXERCISE FOR
 GRAEFF WAS SUBTERFUGES EMPLOYED BY THE SYRIANS TO

SECRET

SEGUET WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 03 BEIRUT 3460

DTG: Ø10732Z JUL 86 PSN: Ø57Ø17

AVOID RELEASING THE HOSTAGES IN BEIRUT. CUNNING BAG OF SYRIAN TRICKS RANGED FROM CUTTING FRENCH EMBASSY'S DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE WITH PARIS. TO HOLDING HOSTAGES INCOMMUNICADO IN BEAU RIVAGE HOTEL. TO SECRETING THEM OUT OF HOTEL JUST BEFORE AMBASSADOR ARRIVED AT HOTEL FOR THIRD TIME. IN RETROSPECT. AMBASSADOR GRAEFF IS NOW CONVINCED THAT SYRIANS DID NOT WISH TO RELEASE HOSTAGES IN BEIRUT NOR DID THEY WANT THEM SEEN HERE BY FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES. INSTEAD. THEY PREFERRED TO ORGANIZE MAJOR MEDIA EVENT IN DAMASCUS WHERE THEY COULD POSE AS LIBERATORS OF HOSTAGES FOR WORLD TV. GRAEFF BELIEVES THAT THEY ALSO WISHED TO PREVENT POSSIBILITY OF HOSTAGES BEING TAKEN BY FRENCH TO EAST BEIRUT WHERE CHRISTIAN AUTHORITIES MIGHT HAVE BENEFITED PERIPHERALLY FROM POSSIBLE MEDIA PERCEPTION OF CONTRAST IN CONDITIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT.

- 3. TIMING OF TRANSFER OF HOSTAGES FROM HIZBALLAH-IRANIAN CONTROL TO SYRIAN CONTROL STILL PUZZLES GRAEFF. HE BELIEVES HOSTAGES WERE PRESENT IN BEAU RIVAGE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 20, WHEN HE FIRST VISITED HOTEL SOME 20-24 HOURS PRIOR TO THEIR RELEASE ON SATURDAY IN DAMASCUS. IN ANY CASE, THIS QUESTION PRESUMABLY WILL BE RESOLVED BY HOSTAGE DEBRIEFING NOW TAKING PLACE IN PARIS.
- 4. ANOTHER FASCINATING WRINKLE TO THE RELEASE WAS A SERIES OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS SOMEHOW INTERCEPTED BY THE FRENCH BETWEEN A SYRIAN OFFICER AND A HIZBALLAH OFFICIAL. AMBASSADOR GRAEFF CLAIMS BARGAINING WENT ON BETWEEN THE TWO UP TO THE EVE OF THE HOSTAGE RELEASE. FINAL HAGGLING CENTERED ON HIZBALLAH DEMANDS FOR A SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SOUTHERN BIQA' TOWN OF MASHGARAH. GRAEFF COMMENTED

SEGRET WHENE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 03 OF 03 BEIRUT 3460

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TO ME THAT CONVERSATIONS SOUNDED LIKE BARGAINING
BETWEEN TWO RUG MERCHANTS. DESPITE THIS LAST
MINUTE HAGGLING, GRAEFF IS CONVINCED THAT FINAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR RELEASE OF TWO HOSTAGES TO SYRIANS
WERE MADE DURING VISIT TO BEIRUT EARLY IN JUNE OF
IRANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, MOHAMMED ALL BISHARATI.

5. COMMENT: THE CAVALIER WAY THE SYRIANS TREATED THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR SEEMS TO FURTHER REINFORCE PERCEPTION THAT HAT-IN-HAND APPROACH TO HOSTAGE RELEASE TAKEN BY THE FRENCH SIMPLY ENCOURGES HIGH HANDEDNESS AND AN ESCALATION OF DEMANDS. ANY DOUBT OF THE CENTRAL ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE IRANIANS IN THE HOLDING OF WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON MAY ALSO BE DISMISSED ON BASIS OF FRENCM SAD EXPERIENCE. END COMMENT. MCNAMARA

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8218 AMCONSUL CEBU 4695 AMEMBASSY PARIS 2320

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 29848

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM

SUBJECT: MNLF CAPTORS RELEASE FRENCH HOSTAGE

- 1. OF FRENCH PRIEST MICHEL GIGORD WAS RELEASED BY HIS MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) CAPTORS ON JUNE 23 AFTER 21 DAYS OF CAPTIVITY. GIGORD, AGE 46, WAS FREED IN A REMOTE TOWN IN LANAO DEL SUR PROVINCE. HE WAS TURNED OVER TO MOSLEM LEADERS WHO HAD PERSUADED THE ABDUCTORS TO DROP THEIR DEMAND FOR PESOS 388,888 (DOLS 15,888) IN RANSOM. DURING A TELEVISION INTERVIEW IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE, GIGORD TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE BELIEVED HIS KIDNAPPING WAS "CONNECTED WITH THE LIBYAN ROMBING " HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT HIS CAPTORS BELIEVED THAT HE WAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND THAT SUCH A HIGH RANSOM WOULD LIKELY BE PAID TO SECURE HIS RELEASE.
- 2. (U) GIGORD WAS KIDNAPPED AT GUMPOINT BY THREE MEN FROM HIS HOME AT THE HINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY IN LANAO DEL SUR CAPITAL DE MARARI, THINKE HE IS THE UNIVERSITY : CHAPLAIN. HIS RELEASE WAS NEGOTIATED BY SEVERAL MOSLEM LEADERS, WHO HELD VARIED VIEWS ABOUT WHY GIGORD WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE. PRINCESS TARHATA LUCMAN SAID THAT THE CAPTORS WERE MEMBERS OF THE MILE AND THAT THEY WERE DISGRUNTLED FORMER UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES DISMISSED BY A NEW OFFICIAL APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT AQUINO LUCHAN ADDED THAT THE CAPTORS WERE "GOOD BOYS, WHO MERELY WISHED TO DRAW NATIONAL ATTENTION TO THEIR PLIGHT." ON THE OTHER HAND, FORMER LANAO DEL SUR GOVERNOR, ALI DIMAPORO, A POLITICAL RIVAL OF LUCMAN, BELIEVES THAT THE KIDNAPPING WAS CARRIED OUT TO AVENGE THE RECENT U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA. HE AGREED WITH GIGORD THAT THE LATTER HAD BEEN MISTAKEN FOR AN AMERICAN.
- 3. (C) FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, HUGES GROISBAULT, THE NEW DEM AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH US ON THE HANDLING OF THE GIGORD KIDNAPPING. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE MANNER IN WHICH WE RESOLVED THE KIDNAPPING OF AMERICANS IN THE PHILIPPINES LAST YEAR. WE STRESSED OUR CONSISTENT POLICY OF NOT PAYING RANSOM FOR HOSTAGES, A POINT WHICH GROISBAULT TOOK ON BOARD DURING 🐕 HIS OWN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GIGORD'S KIDNAPPERS. HE TOLD

THE DCH THAT NO RANSOM HAD BEEN PAID. GROISBAULT ALSO DECIDED THAT HE WOULD USE THE ASSISTANCE OF DIMAPORO AND OTHER LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS BECAUSE SEVERAL OF THEM HAD TIES POLITICALLY AND ON A PERSONAL LEVEL WITH THE CAPTORS. THE FRENCH DCH SAID HE DID NOT SHARE THE VIEW THAT GLOORD WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE IN RETALLATION FOR LIBYA AND BECAUSE OF THE PERCEPTION THAT THE PRIEST WAS AN AMERICAN. HE CALLED THIS THEORY A "GEOPOLITICAL RATIONALIZATION", THOUGH ACKNOWLEDGING MOST WHITES WERE REGARDED, PRIMA FACIE AS AMERICANS IN THE AREA.

53225

4. (C) COMMENT: WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ON THE SURFACE GIGORD MIGHT HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR AN AMERICAN. IT STRIKES US AS CURIOUS. UNDER LOCAL CONDITIONS, EXPATRIATE MISSIONARIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE GENERALLY WELL KNOWN BY NATIONALITY. IN ANY CASE, OUR RECENT TRAVEL MESSAGE TO AMERICANS REGARDING TRIPS TO OUTLYING AREAS IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES SHOULD HELP TO ENSURE THAT OUR OWN CITIZENS ARE COGNIZANT OF THE POTENTIAL FOR THIS TYPE OF THREAT THERE, KAPLAN

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7/1/1986

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

53226 REPORT

RE HOSTAGES

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

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

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

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

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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

Date and time 07/02/86 09:58:53

~-From: NSPWR --CPUA

To: NSJRS --CPUA

NOTE FROM: Peter Rodman

SUBJECT: S-W-P Breakfast: Giraud Visit

Cap raised the Giraud visit and said he looked forward to establishing a personal relationship with him. The Admiral asked if we could speed up delivery of the AWACS? They wanted one right away. Cap said Boeing could try to get them one soon; the production line was still warm. John asked if we could divert one from those coming off the line currently for our own forces. Cap replied that there were none coming off the line for our forces; we were well stocked at the moment. He thought the French could get one at an early date (but from the context I think he meant in several months' or a few years' time, not really immediately).

Shultz urged Cap to discuss Libya with Giraud. Whitehead said we still believed a French company was rebuilding the Libyan missile sites that we had bombed and Air France was still repairing Libyan planes. Raimond had denied all this but we believed it was still happening. The Admiral agreed. Shultz said he would raise this in his own meeting with Giraud, and he asked Whitehead to be there to raise these particular points.

cc:	NSRBM	CPUA
	NSTC	CPUA
	MORTON	VAXB
	NSHRT	CPUA

NSWRP --CPUA NSPRS --CPUA NSOLN --CPUA

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NLRR, MO7-071 #53230

BY CHJ NARA DATE 4/9/10

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SECKET

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM



PAGE Ø1 ÚF Ø2 DAMASCUS 4Ø14 SIT7ØØ DTG: Ø31128Z JUL 86 PSN: Ø61691

TOR: 184/1139Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC | MMEDIATE 5854

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 1973 AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 3518 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 2993

S E C R E T DAMASCUS Ø4014

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, PTER, FR, LE

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR RE RECENTLY RELEASED

FRENCH HOSTAGES

REF: BEIRUT 3479

- 1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. WHEN, ACCOMPANIED BY KSYRIAN DESK OFFICER GREENE, I CALLED ON FRENCH AMBASSADOR GRENIER JULY 2, HE HAD A BIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE TWO FRENCH T. V. CREW HOSTAGES WHO WERE RELEASED

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NARA DATE 419 114

SECRET

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 02 DAMASCUS 4014 DTG: 031128Z JUL 86 PSN: 061691

LAST WEEK. EMBASSY PARIS WILL NO DOUBT GET A DETAILED REPORT FROM BETTER SOURCES. GRENIFR RECOUNTED HOW THE SYRIANS HAD BROUGHT THE RELEASED HOSTAGES TO DAMASCUS WHERE THEY WERE RELEASED WITH THE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FAVORABLE TO SYRIA. RATHER THAN TURN THEM OVER TO THE AMBASSADOR IMMEDIATELY. THE SYRIANS HELD THEM UNTIL A PLANE WITH DELEGATES FROM PARIS HAD ARRIVED. HENCE, THE AMBASSADOR HAD VERY LITTLE TIME TO SPEAK TO THEM AND MUCH OF THAT TIME SYRIANS WERE PRESENT.

- 3. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE FOUR T.V. CREW HOSTAGES WERE HELD BY THE SAME GROUP BUT WERE SEPARATED INTO TWO PAIRS. HE FOUND IT CURIOUS THAT ONE FROM EACH PAIR WAS RELEASED. THEY HAD BEEN WELL ENOUGH TREATED BUT WERE NOT GIVEN READING MATERIAL OR ACCESS TO OUTSIDE NEWS. THEIR CAPTORS ALWAYS WORE HOODS AND ACTED VERY "PROFESSIONALLY." NOT INDULGING IN ANY CONVERSATION WITH THE CAPTIVES.
- 4. THE FORMER HOSTAGES REPORTED THAT THEY NEVER LEFT THE BEIRUT AREA AND THOUGHT THEY WERE IN THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS. THEY WERE KEPT IN A VILLA THAT WAS NOT REMODELED AS A PRISON. THEY WERE ABOVE GROUND, NOT IN A BASEMENT.
- 5. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. EAGLETON ВТ

CONFIDENTIAL WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PAGE Ø1 OF Ø3 PARIS 9959

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DTG: 281010Z JUN 86 PSN: 052498

TOR: 179/1018Z

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PRIORITY STU9547 DE RUFHFR #9959 1791010 P 281010Z JUN 86 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1067

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1036 AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 3689 AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 2472 AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 2885 AMEMBASSY LONDON 4028

C O N F/1 D E N T 1 A L PARIS 29959

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PTER, FR, LE, IR

SUBJECT:

HOSTAGES: FRENCH FINANCIAL DISCUSSIONS

WITH IRAN

- CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT
- 2. ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE NOTED PRESS REPORTS THAT THE "SECOND PHASE," AS THE NEWSPAPERS PUT IT, OF FINANCIAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND IRAN BEGAN ON JUNE 26 WITH THE ARRIVAL IN PARIS OF AN IRANIAN TEAM. IRANIAN FINANCIAL TEAM IS LED BY

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COMPTDENTIAL WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE Ø2 OF Ø3 PARIS 9959

DTG: 281010Z JUN 86 PSN: 052498

VICE-MINISTER OF FINANCE, MEHDI NAVAB, AND INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF CENTRAL BANK, "ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION," AND MFA, AND RESPONDS TO JUNE VISIT TO TEHRAN OF FRENCH GROUP. WE NOTE ALSO THAT THE ONLY FRENCH CITIZEN JAILED IN IRAN, JEAN-YVES ALBERTINI, HAS BEEN RELEASED, AS HOPED.

- 3. PRESS REPORTS ALSO CITE A JUNE 26 INTERVIEW IN THE TEHRAN TIMES WITH JAVAD LARIDJANI, IRANIAN DEPULY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS, IN WHICH HE RECOGNIZES THAT IRAN PLAYED A "VITAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE" IN THE RELEASE OF THE TWO FRENCH HOSTAGES. ACCORDING TO LARIDJANI. IRAN WAS ABLE TO EFFECT THE RELEASE "BECAUSE OF IDEOLOGICAL LINKS WITH CERTAIN POLITICAL GROUPS IN LEBANON WHICH UNDERSTAND OUR ROLE IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY. AND WHICH FOLLOW US IN CERTAIN CASES." QUESTIONED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH ARMS SALES TO IRAN, LARIDJANI RESPONDED THAT IRAN RECEIVES DAILY OFFERS OF ARMS SALES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES. HE ALSO SAID THAT IRAN COULD PLAY THE SAME ROLE (AS WITH FRANCE) TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF BRITISH HOSTAGES IN LEBANON "ON THE CONDITION THAT LONDON CHANGE B FTO POLICY TOWARDS IRAN."
- 4. COMMENT: "LE MONDE" ADDRESSES THE IRANIAN TEAM'S VISIT BY NOTING THAT THERE IS A REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT THE "NORMALIZATION" DOSSIER COULD BE CLOSED WITH THE PRESENT VISIT. THIS IS REMOTE IN THE EXTREME. ALTHOUGH MOMENTUM IS BUILDING, WE ASSUME, BASED ON FRENCH ASSURANCES, THAT DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR OUITE SOME TIME.

CONFIDENTIAL WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE Ø3 OF Ø3 PARIS 9959

DTG: 281010Z JUN 86 PSN: 052498

5. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. RODGERS

BT

TO> UTS3340

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1673 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1043 AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 3692 AMEMBASSY LONDON 4096 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 7394 S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 30932 TERREP EXCLUSIVE TAGS: PTER, FR, LE

<SUBJ> SUBJECT: REQUEST OF NEW FRENCH HOSTAGE COORDINATOR

<TEXT> 1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY: QUAI HOSTAGE COORDINATOR HAS REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION USG MIGHT HAVE ON IRANIAN CHARGE AND ASSOCIATES WHO DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT IN 1982. HE SAID THAT CONTROL OF THESE IRANIANS COULD BE A "TRUMP CARD" IN ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH TEHRAN. WHILE MAKING CLEAR OUR ABHORRENCE OF "TRADING IN BODIES," WE SHOULD PASS SOME MINIMAL INFORMATION TO SOURCE AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING HIS CANDOR ABOUT FRENCH TACTICS. END SUMMARY.

HOSTAGES

- 3. EMBOFF MET JULY 3 AT FRENCH REQUEST WITH DIPLOMAT DIDIER DESTREMAUD (STRICTLY PROTECT), WHO HAD IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS THE NEW FULL TIME HOSTAGE COORDINATOR IN THE QUAI FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE FOR KHARTOUM OF AMBASSADOR PIERRE BLOUIN. DESTREMAUD, AN EXTROVERT KNOWN TO OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS, SAID THAT IN CONTRAST WITH HIS PREDECESSORS, HE INTENDED TO CONSULT FULLY AND OFTEN WITH EMBASSY IN EFFORT TO SHARE AS MUCH INFORMATION ON HOSTAGES AS POSSIBLE. SAID HE IS ALSO TOUCHING BASE WITH BRITISH EMBASSY. 4. WITH REMARKABLE, AND NO DOUBT UNAUTHORIZED, CANDOR, DESTREMAUD SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IRANIANS OVER A "PACKAGE DEAL FOR HOSTAGES" WERE GOING WELL, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD TAKE TIME. IRANIANS WERE HARD BARGAINERS. IN THIS REGARD, GOF HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED NEW INFORMATION THAT THE IRANIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND FOUR OR FIVE AIDES WHO DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT IN 1982 WERE STILL ALIVE. LOGIC SUGGESTED THAT THEY WERE BEING HELD BY THE LEBANESE FORCES, SINCE HAD THEY BEEN RELEASED BY THE LF TO MUSLIM GROUPS (AS SOME IN THE LF CLAIM), THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED LONG DESTREMAUD SAID THAT CONTROL OF, OR EVEN SOLID INFORMATION ON, THE IRANIANS WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS "TRUMP CARD" FOR THE FRENCH AND THE AMERICANS IN THE ONGOING HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASKED IF USG HAD ANY INFORMATION.
- EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT LF HAD TOLD US IN THE PAST THAT THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE IRANIANS, BUT THAT HE WOULD CHECK WITH WASHINGTON FOR AN UPDATE. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS SURPRISED, HE SAID, THAT DESTREMAUD WAS NOT AWARE OF OUR MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS FIRMLY REJECTING THE IDEA OF "TRADING IN BODIES," A POLICY TO WHICH WE CONTINUE TO ADHERE. THIS PARTICULAR EXAMPLE, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT BARGAINING COULD BE IMPLEMENTED, WOULD BE A

BY GI #53240

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PARTICULARLY GROSS EXAMPLE. DESTREMAUD SAID THAT HE HAD EXPECTED THIS RESPONSE, "ALTHOUGH YOUR POLICY IS WRONG," BUT THAT THE AMERICANS AND THE FRENCH HAD TO BE "PRACTICAL." IN ANY EVENT, HE ADDED, HE WAS ONLY ASKING FOR AN UPDATE ON WHAT THE U.S. HAD, AND FULLY REALIZED THAT WE COULD NOT GET INVOLVED FURTHER. SYRIANS

DESTREMAUD HAD ANOTHER SPECIFIC OUESTION: THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF U.S. EVIDENCE OF SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM, AND "IS THE U.S. THREATENING ASSAD LO EXPOSE THIS INFORMATION IF HE DOES NOT COOPERATE MORE ON THE HOSTAGES?" DESTREMAUD ADDED THAT SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM WAS BEYOND QUESTION, AND THAT THE SOONER THE USG AND GOF COMPARED NOTES, THE BETTER. (NOTE: IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION THE SAME DAY WITH FORMER QUAI MIDDLE EAST SPECIALIST JEAN CLAUDE COUSSERAN, COUSSERAN SAID THAT GOF WAS TRYING TO ANALYZE THE INTERNAL DECISION MAKING PROCESS WITHIN SARG TO EXPLAIN WHY IT HAD SUDDENLY DECIDED TO EMBRACE TERRORISM AGAINST WESTERN TARGETS SEPTEL). EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM WAS A HIGHLY SENSITIVE TOPIC THAT WAS BEING ADDRESSED BY VARIOUS USG AND GOF AGENCIES AT THE PRESENT TIME. FULLER COORDINATION WHO WAS SAYING

<TIME>

ORIG DTG: 071946Z JUL 86 SECRE WHCA TOR: 188/2002Z PSN: 068441 VAX779

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<SECT> 01 < PSN> 068441 < SSN> 0932 < GE#>004121

<TOR> 860707161332

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1674
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1044
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 3693
AMEMBASSY LONDON 4097
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 7395
S E OR E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 30932

<SUBJ> SUBJECT: REQUEST OF NEW FRENCH HOSTAGE COORDINATOR

<TEXT> TERREP EXCLUSIVE

TO> STU0839

TAGS: PTER, FR, LE WHAT TO WHOM NEEDED TO BE WORKED OUT. AS FOR "THREATENING" ASSAD (DESTREMAUD SAID HE WITHDREW THE WORD), WHILE WE WERE FRUSTRATED BY ASSAD'S ASSURANCES WHICH HAD YET TO PRODUCE RESULTS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT PRESENTING HIM WITH THAT KIND OF ULTIMATUM WOULD PROBABLY BACKFIRE. IN ANY CASE, ASSAD WAS PROBABLY ALREADY NERVOUS ENOUGH, GIVEN EVENTS IN LIBYA. DESTREMAUD RUEFULLY AGREED, BUT AGAIN URGED RAPID AND OMPLT US GOF COORDINATION ON SYRIA. POSSIBLE RELEASE OF LARF SUSPECT IBRAHIM ABDULLAH EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE LENIENT SENTENCE AND EARLY RELEASE FOR CHARGED LARF TERRORIST GEORGES IBRAHIM ABDULLAH, AND REMINDED DESTREMAUD OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES TO U.S. FRENCH RELATIONS AND ONGOING MUTUAL ANTI TERRORIST EFFORT. DESTREMAUD BRUSHED ASIDE QUESTION WITH SOME IRRITATION, SAYING THAT THAT AFFAIR "HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE HOSTAGES, " AND THAT HE HAD WANTED TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON THE LATTER TOPIC. (COMMENT: DESTREMAUD WAS REPEATEDLY GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DENY THE REPORTS, BUT DID NOT. HIS UNCOMFORTABLE DEMEANOR TENDED, MOREOVER, TO SUPPORT CONFIRMATION. END COMMENT)

- 9. DESTREMAUD CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THERE WAS NO RUSH ON THE QUESTION OF THE MISSING IRANIANS, AND REITERATED HIS DESIRE FOR FREQUENT MEETINGS TO COMPARE NOTES.
- 10. COMMENT: GIVEN HIS ENTHUSIASM, DESTREMAUD COULD BE AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF INDIRECT INFORMATION ON FRENCH NEGOTIATING TACTICS, AS WELL AS OTHER MIDDLE EAST TOPICS. ALTHOUGH WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS OUR INTENTION NOT TO INVOLVE OURSELVES IN ANY PLAN TO TRADE IRANIAN DIPLOMATS FOR HOSTAGES, IT WOULD BE OPERATIONALLY USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVIDE US WITH A CRUMB OR TWO ON THE IRANIANS WHICH WE COULD PASS TO THE FRENCH. AS FOR EXCHANGES ON THE SYRIANS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS BEING SORTED OUT WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND INTERESTED AGENCIES, BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INCLUDED IN THE CIRCLE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

11. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. BARRACLOUGH

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PRIORITY
UTS3340
DE RUFHFR #0932/01 1881949
P 071946Z JUL 86
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1673

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1043 AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 3692 AMEMBASSY LONDON 4096 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 7394

S E \mathcal{G} R E T SECTION Ø1 OF Ø2 PARIS 3Ø932

TERREP EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, FR, LE
SUBJECT: REQUEST OF NEW FRENCH HOSTAGE COORDINATOR

- 1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. SUMMARY: QUAI HOSTAGE COORDINATOR HAS REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION USG MIGHT HAVE ON IRANIAN CHARGE AND ASSOCIATES WHO DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT IN 1982. HE SAID THAT CONTROL OF THESE IRANIANS COULD BE A "TRUMP CARD" IN ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH TEHRAN. WHILE MAKING

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VALIDE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 04 PARIS 0932

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CLEAR OUR ABHORRENCE OF "TRADING IN BODIES," WE SHOULD PASS SOME MINIMAL INFORMATION TO SOURCE AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING HIS CANDOR ABOUT FRENCH TACTICS. END SUMMARY.

HOSTAGES

- 3. EMBOFF MET JULY 3 AT FRENCH REQUEST WITH DIPLOMAT DIDIER DESTREMAUD (STRICTLY PROTECT), WHO HAD IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS THE NEW FULL-TIME HOSTAGE COORDINATOR IN THE QUAI FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE FOR KHARTOUM OF AMBASSADOR PIERRE BLOUIN. DESTREMAUD, AN EXTROVERT KNOWN TO OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS, SAID THAT IN CONTRAST WITH HIS PREDECESSORS, HE INTENDED TO CONSULT FULLY AND OFTEN WITH EMBASSY IN EFFORT TO SHARE AS MUCH INFORMATION ON HOSTAGES AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID HE IS ALSO TOUCHING BASE WITH BRITISH EMBASSY.
- 4. WITH REMARKABLE, AND NO DOUBT UNAUTHORIZED, CANDOR, DESTREMAUD SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IRANIANS OVER A "PACKAGE DEAL FOR HOSTAGES" WERE GOING WELL, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD TAKE TIME. IRANIANS WERE HARD BARGAINERS. IN THIS REGARD, GOF HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED NEW INFORMATION THAT THE IRANIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND FOUR OR FIVE AIDES WHO DISAPPEARED IN BEIRUT IN 1982 WERE STILL ALIVE. LOGIC SUGGESTED THAT THEY WERE BEING HELD BY THE LEBANESE FORCES, SINCE HAD THEY BEEN RELEASED BY THE LEF TO MUSLIM GROUPS (AS SOME IN THE LEF CLAIM), THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN RELEASED LONG AGO. DESTREMAUD SAID THAT CONTROL OF, OR EVEN SOLID INFORMATION ON, THE IRANIANS WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS "TRUMP CARD" FOR THE FRENCH AND THE AMERICANS IN THE ONGOING HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASKED IF USG HAD ANY

FAGE 03 OF 04 PARIS 0932

DTG: 071946Z JUL 86 PSN: 068466

INFORMATION.

5. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT LF HAD TOLD US IN THE PAST THAT THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE IRANIANS, BUT THAT HE WOULD CHECK WITH WASHINGTON FOR AN UPDATE.

NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS SURPRISED, HE SAID, THAT DESTREMAUD WAS NOT AWARE OF OUR MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS FIRMLY REJECTING THE IDEA OF "TRADING IN BODIES," A POLICY TO WHICH WE CONTINUE TO ADHERE. THIS PARTICULAR EXAMPLE, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT BARGAINING COULD BE IMPLEMENTED, WOULD BE A PARTICULARLY GROSS EXAMPLE. DESTREMAUD SAID THAT HE HAD EXPECTED THIS RESPONSE, "ALTHOUGH YOUR POLICY IS WRONG," BUT THAT THE AMERICANS AND THE FRENCH HAD TO BE "PRACTICAL." IN ANY EVENT, HE ADDED, HE WAS ONLY ASKING FOR AN UPDATE ON WHAT THE U.S. HAD, AND FULLY REALIZED THAT WE COULD NOT GET INVOLVED FURTHER.

SYRIANS

6. DESTREMAUD HAD ANOTHER SPECIFIC QUESTION: WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF U.S. EVIDENCE OF SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM, AND "IS THE U.S. THREATENING

ASSAD LO EXPOSE THIS INFORMATION IF HE DOES NOT COOPERATE MORE ON THE HOSTAGES>" DESTREMAUD ADDED THAT SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM WAS BEYOND QUESTION, AND THAT THE SOONER THE USG AND GOF COMPARED NOTES, THE BETTER. (NOTE: IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION THE SAME DAY WITH FORMER QUAL MIDDLE EAST SPECIALIST JEAN-CLAUDE COUSSERAN, COUSSERAN SAID THAT GOF WAS TRYING TO ANALYZE THE INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WITHIN SARG TO EXPLAIN WHY IT HAD SUDDENLY DECIDED TO EMBRACE TERRORISM AGAINST WESTERN TARGETS--SEPTEL).

DID HE GET INFO FROM OUR MEETWA U/ FWGS? PAGE 04 OF 04 PARIS 0932

DTG: 071946Z JUL 86 PSN: 068466

7. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN
TERRORISM WAS A HIGHLY SENSITIVE TOPIC THAT WAS BEING
ADDRESSED BY VARIOUS USG AND GOF AGENCIES AT THE
PRESENT TIME. FULLER COORDINATION--WHO WAS SAYING
BT

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PAGE Ø1 OF Ø3 PARIS Ø932 SITØ17

DTG: Ø71946Z JUL 86 PSN: Ø68444

TOR: 188/2003Z

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PRIORITY
STUØ839
DE RUFHFR #Ø932/Ø2 188195Ø
P Ø71946Z JUL 86
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1674

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1044 AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 3693 AMEMBASSY LONDON 4097 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 7395

S E C/R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 30932

TERREP EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, FR, LE
SUBJECT: REQUEST OF NEW FRENCH HOSTAGE COORDINATOR

WHAT TO WHOM--NEEDED TO BE WORKED OUT. AS FOR "THREATENING" ASSAD (DESTREMAUD SAID HE WITHDREW THE WORD), WHILE WE WERE FRUSTRATED BY ASSAD'S ASSURANCES WHICH HAD YET TO PRODUCE RESULTS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT PRESENTING HIM WITH THAT KIND OF ULTIMATUM WOULD PROBABLY BACKFIRE. IN ANY CASE, ASSAD WAS PROBABLY ALREADY NERVOUS ENOUGH, GIVEN EVENTS IN LIBYA. DESTREMAUD RUEFULLY AGREED, BUT AGAIN URGED RAPID AND OMPLT US-GOF COORDINATION ON SYRIA.

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DTG: Ø71946Z JUL 86 PSN: Ø68444

POSSIBLE RELEASE OF LARF SUSPECT IBRAHIM ABDULLAH

- 8. EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE LENIENT SENTENCE AND EARLY RELEASE FOR CHARGED LARF TERRORIST GEORGES IBRAHIM ABDULLAH, AND REMINDED DESTREMAUD OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES TO U.S.-FRENCH RELATIONS AND ONGOING MUTUAL ANTI-TERRORIST EFFORT. DESTREMAUD BRUSHED ASIDE QUESTION WITH SOME IRRITATION, SAYING THAT THAT AFFAIR "HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE HOSTAGES," AND THAT HE HAD WANTED TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON THE LATTER TOPIC. (COMMENT: DESTREMAUD WAS REPEATEDLY GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DENY THE REPORTS, BUT DID NOT. HIS UNCOMFORTABLE DEMEANOR TENDED, MOREOVER, TO SUPPORT CONFIRMATION. END COMMENT)
- 9. DESTREMAUD CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THERE WAS NO RUSH ON THE QUESTION OF THE MISSING IRANIANS, AND REITERATED HIS DESIRE FOR FREQUENT MEETINGS TO COMPARE NOTES.
- 10. COMMENT: GIVEN HIS ENTHUSIASM, DESTREMAUD COULD BE AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF INDIRECT INFORMATION ON FRENCH NEGOTIATING TACTICS, AS WELL AS OTHER MIDDLE EAST TOPICS. ALTHOUGH WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS OUR INTENTION NOT TO INVOLVE OURSELVES IN ANY PLAN TO TRADE IRANIAN DIPLOMATS FOR HOSTAGES, IT WOULD BE OPERATIONALLY USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVIDE US WITH A CRUMB OR TWO ON THE IRANIANS WHICH WE COULD PASS TO THE FRENCH. AS FOR EXCHANGES ON THE SYRIANS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS BEING SORTED OUT WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND INTERESTED AGENCIES,

VALIDE HOUSE STUATION ROOM

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BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INCLUDED IN THE CIRCLE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

11. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. BARRACLOUGH ВТ

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