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(National Security – Defense: Wars)

Case file Number(s): 608167

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Last Updated: 11/20/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ND 016

INCOMING

RECEIVED

DATE RECEIVED: DECEMBER 23, 1988

DEC 27 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. HOWARD P. TANGER

MEDIA RELATIONS

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING THE "BOMBING" OF PAN-AM
FLIGHT 103 AND CALLS UPON THE PRESIDENT TO
TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS
INVOLVED

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
ELIZABETH BOARD		ORG	88/12/23	NAN	C 88/12/29
REFERRAL NOTE:					
9900S		A	88/12/29		88/12/19
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:T INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	* OF SIGNER	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	* CODE = A	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		* OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *			*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OEOb) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

TRANSMITTAL FORM

8900026

S/S _____

Date January 23, 1989

FOR:

Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Ronald Reagan

From: Mr. Howard P. Tanger

Date: December 22, 1988

Subject: Mr. Tanger expresses outrage at the Pan Am 103
bombing and suggests appropriate action be taken
against terrorists involved.

WH Referral Dated: January 3, 1989
NSC ID# (if any): 608167

_____ The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

_____ A draft reply is attached.

_____ A draft reply will be forwarded.

_____ A translation is attached.

☒ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

_____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.

_____ The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.

_____ Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:

UNCLASSIFIED

for Deborah G. Sadrey
Director
Secretariat Staff



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 19, 1989

Dear Mr. Tanger:

Thank you for your telegram to the President regarding PAN AM 103. The President asked me to respond on his behalf in view of our office's lead role in coordinating our counter-terrorism efforts overseas.

We share your outrage at the deliberate, vicious bombing of PAN AM 103 and would like to assure you that an all-out effort is being made to identify and track down the culprits. The FBI is working with the British authorities and security forces from West Germany and other countries also are also involved in the investigation. Large numbers of investigators are searching for clues to determine the kind of explosive device used and how it was placed on board the plane.

We are working on the case from other directions. That includes mobilizing our intelligence resources. It will take time to find the perpetrators of this atrocious attack, but we are confident that we will. I should caution you that the various recent press articles on who may have committed the bombing are speculative. The investigators have reached no conclusions on who may have been responsible, and we still cannot rule out the possibility that the bombing may have been a criminal act. We must first determine who was responsible for the act before deciding on our response.

Let me assure you that tracking down those responsible for PAN AM 103 has our highest priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alvin P. Adams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alvin P. Adams

Deputy

Office of the Ambassador-at-Large
for Counter-Terrorism

Mr. Howard P. Tanger,
President,
Marlin Broadcasting,
32 Fairfield Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

5950026

JANUARY 31 1989

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
APPROPRIATE ACTION

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 608167

MEDIA: TELEGRAM, DATED DECEMBER 22, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. HOWARD P. TANGER
PRESIDENT
MARLIN BROADCASTING
32 FAIRFIELD STREET
BOSTON MA 02116

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING THE "BOMBING" OF PAN-AM
FLIGHT 103 AND CALLS UPON THE PRESIDENT TO
TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS
INVOLVED

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

E. Board

608167

1-016669A357 12/22/88

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02751 REND NV 12-22 0312P PST RYNG

ICS IPMWHDS

4-043738S357 12/22/88

ICS IPMHTZZ CSP

6172670515 POM TDMT BOSTON MA 129 12-22 0559P EST

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR PRESIDENT REAGAN

I SEND THIS MESSAGE TO YOU AS OWNER OF MARLIN BROADCASTING (WTMI-FM
MIAMI, WQRS-FM DETROIT, AND WFLN-FM PHILADELPHIA).

WE ARE OUTRAGED AT THE BOMBING OF PAN-AM FLIGHT 103. BUT, WITH JUST A
MONTH REMAINING IN YOUR PRESIDENCY, YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO

DEMONSTRATE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT BATTLE TERRORISM WITH
JUST EMPTY WORDS. THIS IS A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF HOW TO USE AMERICAN
MILITARY POWER. WE CALL UPON YOU TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST
IRAN, LIBYA, AND OR OTHER TERRORISTS INVOLVED. YOUR ACTIONS AGAINST
LIBYA IN THE PAST HAVE SAVED MANY AMERICAN LIVES, AND THE USE OF
MILITARY FORCE NOW WILL INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE FLYING PUBLIC IN THE
FUTURE.

THE BOMBING OF PAN-AM FLIGHT 103 IS THE PEARL HARBOR OF YOUR
PRESIDENCY.

SINCERELY YOURS

HOWARD P TANGER/PRESIDENT

MARLIN BROADCASTING

32 FAIRFIELD ST

BOSTON MA 02116

32 FAIRFIELD ST

BOSTON MA 02116

1758 EST

1818 EST

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E. Board

608167

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SINCERELY YOURS

HOWARD F TANGER/PRESIDENT

MARLIN BROADCASTING

32 FAIRFIELD ST

BOSTON MA 02116

89000026:18

'89 JAN-03 2:23 PM

32 FAIRFIELD ST
BOSTON MA 02116

1758 EST

1818 EST