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05/17/1987

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name SITUATION SUPPORT STAFF, WHITE HOUSE: RECORDS **Withdrawer**
RBW 7/29/2019
File Folder IN-HIS 4-23 IRAQ: USS STARK INCIDENT 05/17/1987 **FOIA**
F2004-028
Box Number 3 COLLINS

700

| ID Doc Type | Document Description | No of Pages | Doc Date | Restrictions |
|--------------|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 240895 MEMO | ERIC LARSON RE. CHRON FOR STARK INCIDENT | 2 | 5/17/1987 | B1 |
| 240896 TABLE | RE. MISSILE ATTACK ON USS STARK | 1 | ND | B1 |
| 240897 PAPER | RE. USS STARK INCIDENT | 1 | 5/20/1987 | B1 |
| 240898 PAPER | RE. USS STARK INCIDENT [COPY OF DOC. 240897] | 1 | 5/20/1987 | B1 |
| 240907 MEMO | RE. INFO. RE. STARK INCIDENT | 2 | 5/20/1987 | B1 |
| 240906 MEMO | FROM LOUIS MICHAEL RE. USS STARK INCIDENT | 4 | 5/18/1987 | 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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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

18 MAY 87

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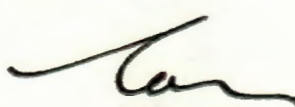
LANSON _____

→ GOOD PACKAGE

✓ COULD HAVE USED
SLIGHTLY MORE
EMPHASIS ON ASSESSMENT
OF MEDICAL CAPABILITIES
& R.O.E., IN MY
JUDGEMENT

(THIS IS FROM PERSPECTIVE
OF CRISIS MANAGER,
DEP/EXSEC, NSC, SITUATION
SUPPORT)

→ WE WEN TO TRACK
RESPONSE/FOLLOW UP
OF TASKINGS AT TAB I


MICHAEL
DES/SS

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1
SYSTEM II
90500 Add-On

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

May 18, 1987

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR FRANK C. CARLUCCI

FROM: ROBERT B. OAKLEY *RO*

SUBJECT: NSPG Meeting on Attack on USS Stark
and Gulf Security, May 18, 1987,
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Attached at Tab I is a brief memorandum to the President for this
afternoon's meeting. Tab II contains points for your use.

Bill Cockell *W* concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Talking Points for the President
Tab B Agenda
Tab II Talking Points for Carlucci

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DECLASSIFIED
Sec.3.4(b), E.O. 12958, as amended
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2008
BY NARA *W*, DATE *7/2/11*

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SYSTEM II
90500 Add-On

4

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 18, 1987

MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING GROUP

DATE: May 18, 1987

LOCATION: Situation Room

TIME: 2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

FROM: FRANK C. CARLUCCI

I. PURPOSE

To review our policy toward the Persian Gulf in light of the Iraqi attack on the USS Stark and Assistant Secretary Murphy's just-completed visit to key Gulf countries as your emissary.

II. BACKGROUND

The March 23 NSPG reaffirmed our policy of bolstering friendly Arab states in the Gulf, including protection of Kuwaiti shipping, and redoubling diplomatic activities to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war. Our diplomatic efforts -- particularly Assistant Secretary Murphy's just-completed trip to the Gulf as your emissary, plus our willingness to make a military commitment to freedom of navigation, have caused the Gulf states to take a firmer stand vis-a-vis Iran and a much more favorable position vis-a-vis the United States. With active efforts of the Arab League paralleling our own, there has been significant progress (including by the USSR) toward a Security Council resolution which would pressure Iran for a ceasefire, withdrawal and negotiations. At the same time, Iran has reacted to the increasing pressure by stepped-up threats against Kuwaiti, the U.S. and the USSR, including the attack upon an unescorted Soviet cargo ship (which had earlier carried arms for Iraq).

As Iran's propaganda has become more strident, punctuated by the attack on a Soviet ship, Congress has focused again on our role in the Gulf. (When briefed last month, the reaction was favorable or non-committal to our policy, including the protection of Kuwaiti ships registered in the U.S. and under our flag.) The attack and large loss of life on the USS Stark will make our policy a much higher-profile political issue, starting with HFAC hearings scheduled for tomorrow. We shall therefore need to work harder to explain the important reasons for the policy, including the need to keep Soviets from expanding their influence at our expense

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BY: RW NARA DATE 7/29/19

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and protecting access of U.S., Europe and Japan to vital oil from the Gulf. If we back down now, it will be seen as a sign of United States weakness and inability to sustain a soundly-based policy. It will also disrupt slowly-increasing international pressure on Iran to stop the war.

We shall also need to review our naval and air presence in the Gulf to ascertain what measures are needed to improve protection of our own forces as well as U.S. flag vessels, and lend support to our friends. It would be desirable for the latter (UK and France as well as GCC) to undertake a more active, better coordinated role in protecting freedom of navigation. We should also ask for increased support of diplomatic action to end the war and stop arms to Iran (especially PRC, UK and USSR) as well as more general public and diplomatic support for freedom of navigation in Gulf (NATO and Japan).

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SYSTEM II
90500

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH
NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING GROUP

- Tragic incident of USS Stark is reminder of risk we run as principal protector of free world interests.
- Our policy in Gulf has made significant progress since last NSPG (March 23). We must persevere, not back down to advantage of Iran and USSR.
- This means major effort to explain our policies at home and elicit greater support and cooperation from our friends.
- It also means hard look at operating procedures, strength and capabilities of our military forces in the Gulf to protect our own forces as well as U.S. flag vessels and lend support to our friends in face of increased threat.
- We should urge our friends to undertake a more active, better coordinated role in protecting the Gulf and acting to end the war.

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BY RW NARA DATE 7/29/19

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OPENING REMARKS FOR THE PRESIDENT FOR THE
NSPG ON THE GULF, MAY 18, 1987, 2:30 P.M.

- TRAGIC ATTACK ON USS STARK REMINDER OF RISK WE RUN AS PRINCIPAL PROTECTOR OF FREE WORLD.
- SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN GULF SINCE LAST NSPG (MARCH 23). MUST PERSEVERE, NOT BACK DOWN TO ADVANTAGE OF IRAN AND USSR.
- MEANS MAJOR EFFORT EXPLAIN OUR POLICIES AT HOME AND ELICIT GREATER COOPERATION FROM FRIENDS.

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- ALSO MEANS HARD LOOK AT OPERATING PROCEDURES, STRENGTH AND CAPABILITIES OF OUR MILITARY FORCES IN GULF.
- SHOULD URGE OUR FRIENDS TO UNDERTAKE MORE ACTIVE, BETTER COORDINATED ROLE IN PROTECTING GULF AND ACTING TO END WAR.

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 BY RW NARA DATE 7/29/19

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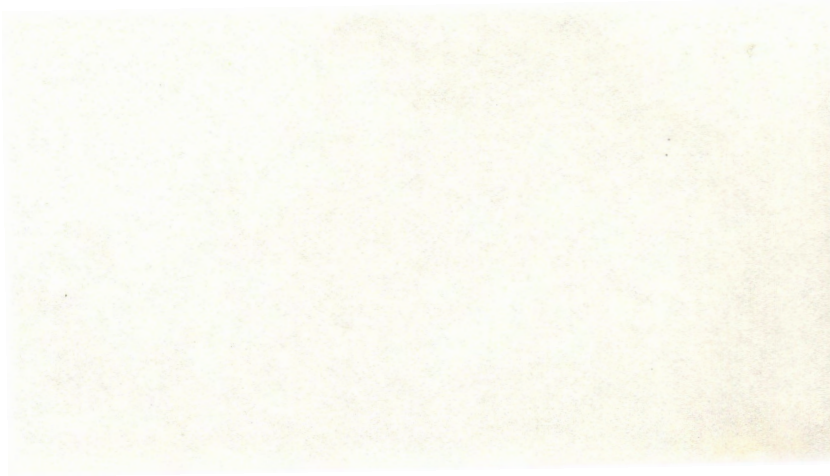
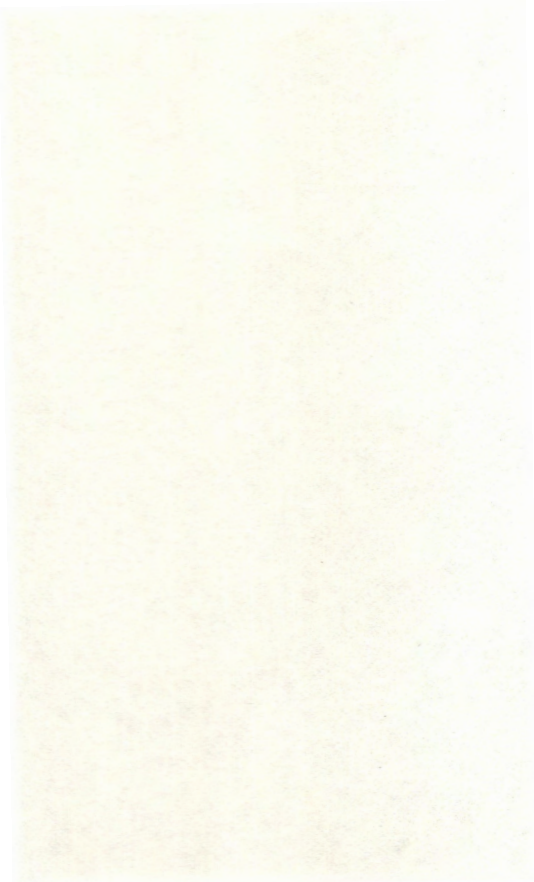
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NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING GROUP
Monday, May 18, 1987
Situation Room
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

U.S. POLICY AND GULF SECURITY

Agenda

- I. Opening Statement.....President
- II. Introduction.....Frank Carlucci
(3 minutes)
- III. Review of USS Stark Incident,.....Caspar Weinberger
Implications for Future Operations, (7 minutes)
and Protection of Kuwaiti Shipping
- IV. Diplomatic and Congressional.....George Shultz
Implications of USS Stark Incident (Richard Murphy)
and Report on Murphy Gulf Visit (7 minutes)
- V. Discussion.....All Participants
(10 minutes)
- VI. Summary.....Frank Carlucci
(3 minutes)



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POINTS FOR FRANK C. CARLUCCI
MEETING WITH NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING GROUP

Introduction and During Discussion

Need to pay particular attention to several points:

- If we appear to back down in face of danger it will be a signal to friend and foe around the world that the Administration is badly weakened.

- Must make strong case to Congress and the public (e.g. more publicity for parts of FCC and GS statements dealing with Gulf, HFAC testimony May 19, possible radio address and speech by President on theme of peace in Middle East (both Arab-Israel and Gulf) [State, DOD and White House]

- Note that no action will be taken to protect Kuwaiti ships under U.S. flag without White House approval, but we are committed.

- Ask Gates to describe increased threat.

- Need careful but urgent review of our forces in region for operating procedures; are numbers, types and capabilities of present forces adequate for job, including Silkworm?
[DOD/JCS]

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- Need greater military commitment and coordination by GCC states to protect freedom of navigation, as well as precise political and military commitments from Iraq to avoid future incidents. [State and DOD]

- Ask Shultz and Murphy about trip and diplomatic/political situation in region and at UN.

- Need greater effort by UK, PRC, and USSR (e.g. support of UNSC resolution) to press for end to war and cessation arms supply to Iran. [State]

- Need greater diplomatic support from Europeans, Japan, GCC and Arab League (and Israel).

Summation

- What to do in making case to Congress/public.

- Need report by May 22 on changes/reinforcements for U.S. forces in Gulf. [DOD/JCS]

- Need demarches by May 22 on greater military cooperation in Gulf by GCC states and Iraq. [DOD and State]

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-- Need high-level demarches by March 20 to PRC, UK and USSR on Iran-Iraq war and Iran arms; and to NATO and Japan on support for protecting freedom of navigation in Gulf.

[State]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 1987

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
CONCERNING USS STARK

The Rose Garden

11:38 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I have an announcement here that I would like to make that is aimed directly at you of the press.

I know and I share the sense of concern and anger that Americans feel over the yesterday's tragedy in the Persian Gulf. We have protested this attack in the strongest terms and are investigating the circumstances of the incident. When our investigation of the facts is completed, I will report to the American people about this matter and any further steps that are warranted. For that reason, I have convened a meeting of the National Security Planning Group to review the entire situation in the Persian Gulf.

In the meanwhile, I want to express my deepest sympathies to the families of the brave men killed and injured yesterday aboard the USS Stark. Their loss and suffering will not be in vain. The mission of the men of the USS Stark, safeguarding the interests of the United States and the free world in the Gulf, remains crucial to our national security and to the security of our friends throughout the world.

The hazards to our men and women in uniform in the defense of freedom can never be understated. The officers and crew of the USS Stark deserve our highest admiration and appreciation. And I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain for their prompt assistance in responding to the stricken USS Stark.

This tragic incident underscores the need to bring the Iran-Iraq war to the promptest possible end. We and the rest of the international community must redouble our diplomatic efforts to hasten the settlement that will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq. At the same time, we remain deeply committed to supporting the self-defense of our friends in the Gulf and to ensuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

END

11:40 A.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 1987

STATEMENT BY THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PRESS RELATIONS

President Reagan met with the National Security Planning Group in the Situation Room from 2:30 until 3:45 this afternoon to discuss the status of the attack on the USS Stark in the Persian Gulf. The President has ordered a higher state of alert for U.S. vessels in the area. The belligerents in the war, Iran and Iraq, will be formally notified today of this change in status. Under this status, aircraft of either country flying in a pattern which indicates hostile intent will be fired upon, unless they provide adequate notification of their intentions.

The Administration will consult with Congress on these changes and related issues.

We have issued a vigorous protest to the government of Iraq. We have noted the profound regrets issued by the Iraqi Ambassador in the name of his Foreign Minister and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. However, we are awaiting official notification of this statement. We expect an apology and compensation for the men who died in this tragic incident. We also seek compensation for the ship. The President shares the sense of concern and anger that Americans feel at this time.

We will monitor the situation on a continuing basis.

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