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Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name POINDEXTER, JOHN: FILES

Withdrawer

CAS 7/25/2007

File Folder [TWA HIJACKING JUNE 1985-JULY 1985] (7)

FOIA

F1792

Box Number 2

BATTLE

31

ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
39189 CABLE	300957Z JUN 85	2	6/30/1985	B1
39191 CABLE	301207Z JUN 85	2	6/30/1985	B1
39193 CABLE	301542Z JUN 85	1	6/30/1985	B1
39194 CABLE	301540Z JUN 85	1	6/30/1985	B1
39197 CABLE	301830Z JUN 85	2	6/30/1985	B1
39198 DRAFT LETTER	REAGAN TO ASSAD (SAME TEXT AS 39168)	2	ND	B1

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

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39200	REPORT	SITUATION ROOM REPORT RE HIJACK	2	7/1/1985	B1
39204	CABLE	010924Z JUL 85	2	7/1/1985	B1
39206	CABLE	302233Z JUN 85	2	6/30/1985	B1

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Department of State

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PAGE 01 OF 03 DAMASC 04074 301000Z C17/17 000664 NOD376
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ACTION OFFICE NEA-01
INFO SWO-01 SSO-01 SSS-01³ SSI-01 SS-04 S-02 D-01 P-01 L-01

CATB-01 HWG-01 NSC-01 /017 A5 DDP
DISTRIBUTION PER KQUINN, S/S, 6/30/85
S/S PASS NSC E.O. POINDEXTER VIA COURIER
L E.O. SOFAER; NEA E.O. MURPHY, PELLETREAU
0605 ALERT TO KQUINN, S/S

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MESSAGE NO 001646 CLASSIFICATION SECRET/NOBIS No. Pages 2
 FROM: RUTH VAN HEUVEN S/S-0 X21512 2536
 (Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION COPIES OF FLASH MESSAGES FROM EMBASSIES
BEIRUT (3896) AND DAMASCUS (4080)

TO: (Agency)	DELIVER TO:	Extension	Room No.
ADM. POINDEXTER	(EYES ONLY)		

FOR CLEARANCE INFORMATION PER REQUEST COMMENT

REMARKS: _____

S/S Officer: *Ruth van Heuven*

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39193	CABLE 301542Z JUN 85	1	6/30/1985	B1

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39194	CABLE 301540Z JUN 85	1	6/30/1985	B1

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39197	CABLE 301830Z JUN 85	2	6/30/1985	B1

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

We welcome the release of the 39 Americans who were held hostage by terrorists in Lebanon. We know it is a moment of joy for them and their loved ones. And while we can be satisfied that our firmness paid off, this is not a moment for celebration:

-- The seven Americans who remain captive in Lebanon must be released, along with other innocent hostages from other countries.

-- The murderers of Robert Stethem--and of our Marines in El Salvador--must be ~~punished.~~ *held accountable*

-- Those responsible for the barbaric terrorist acts ~~against~~ *throughout* ~~our Embassy, our Marines, and other Americans in Lebanon~~ *the world must be taken on by* ~~must be punished.~~ *civilized nations.*

-- The international community must ensure that all our airports are safe and that civil air travel is safeguarded.

-- The world must join together in decisive action against terrorists, against nations that sponsor them, and against nations that give them safe haven.

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Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED

White House Guidelines, August 28, 1987
By CU NARA, Date 7/15/09

~~SECRET~~NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
2

This episode reminds us all how precious and fragile are the freedoms and standards of decency of civilized societies. Civilized life, to a great extent, depends on trust in other human beings. But these tragedies remind us that those values we hold most dear must also be defended. Democracy, peace, and freedom have enemies; they must also have steadfast friends.

The United States gives terrorists no rewards and no guarantees. We make no concessions and no deals. Terrorists take heed: you are on notice that we will fight back, in Lebanon and elsewhere, to combat the continuing attacks on American citizens and property.

Several countries have been actively involved in efforts to free our citizens. Syria has had a central responsibility. The efforts of the Algerian Government were likewise an example of constructive cooperation against the direct challenge of lawless terrorists. Throughout the past ___ days, we have also been in close touch with Israel and a number of governments in Europe and the Middle East, as well as with international organizations, all of whom displayed great concern for the safety and release of the hostages. We will remember who helped us and stood with us, and who did not.

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We will not rest until justice has been done. We will not rest until the world community has met its responsibility:

- We call upon those who helped secure the release of these TWA passengers to show even greater energy and commitment to secure the release of all others held captive in Lebanon.

- We call upon the world community to put Beirut International Airport off limits until Beirut International Airport shows that it has put terrorists off limits.

- We call upon the world community to intensify its cooperation in all spheres to stamp out this evil.

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39198	DRAFT LETTER REAGAN TO ASSAD (SAME TEXT AS 39168)	2	ND	B1

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE: UPON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

Q. Was the release of the hostages part of a deal? Did we give guarantees that the prisoners held by Israel would be released?

A: --We gave no guarantees and made no concessions, nor did we urge others to do so. This is a firm policy which we shall continue to respect.

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By AL NARA, Date 7/25/07

Q. What do we expect Israel will do now with the prisoners it is holding?

A: --Israel's policy on returning its prisoners to Lebanon is a matter of record. Israel has stated that its policy is to release the prisoners as the security situation permits in South Lebanon.

Q: Have we suggested to the Israelis that they release their prisoners?

A: --Our position is clear; there is no linkage between the two matters. We have not made deals nor did we urge other to do so. Israel's policy for the release of the prisoners predates the hijacking. They have said they would do so as a function of the security situation in southern Lebanon.

Q: Can you comment on the Israeli television report that Israel and the U.S. reached an understanding that Israel will release its 737 Lebanese prisoners only after the 39 American hostages are released? Wasn't there a linkage?

A: --The GOI formally denied the report to which you refer.

Q: If there was no deal of linkage, then why do you think the hostages are being released? What were the key elements?

A: --We think there finally was a recognition that the U.S. patience was not unlimited and that America will ^{NOT} make deals with terrorists. Also, there was growing outrage of this act of terrorism by nations around the world, including Arab states. We were in touch with a number of parties and countries, including Algeria and Syria, and we think these efforts on a number of fronts all helped.

--The Administration is determined to do everything possible to bring an end to such terrorist acts, which are a threat to the entire international community. The U.S. will continue to work to help eradicate this menace to civilized behavior and we call upon the international community to cooperate fully in this effort.

Q. Now that the prisoners are being released, is the U.S. going to retaliate for the hijacking?

A. -- This is not the time or place to comment on that. There is a general recognition however that steps must be taken to get to the root of terrorism. There is also a growing recognition that Beirut airport should not remain a safe haven for aircraft pirates who prey upon civil aviation in the entire region.

Q. What are we doing about the seven Americans who were kidnapped earlier in Lebanon?

A: --They have not been forgotten. We are continuing to work for the release and again call upon the kidnappers to release them. The kidnappings of these Americans and nationals of other nations are acts of terrorism which not only fail to gain sympathy for the cause of the perpetrators but are criminal acts which deserve the condemnation of the entire international community.

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