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**Collection:** Executive Secretariat, NSC: System File: Records,  
1981-1989

**SERIES:** I: SYSTEM I

**Folder Title:** 8504909 – Talking Points for Regan  
06/19/1985 Meeting with Mother of Hijacked Hostage

**Box:** 30

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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection:** EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: Records  
 System File  
**File Folder:** 8504909

**Archivist:** mjd  
**Date:** 4/29/99

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. PROF note (8504909)	from: <del>William Martin re: meeting, 1p</del> <i>F97-046#4 R 5/22/00</i>	<del>6/18/85</del>	<del>P1/F1</del>
2. PROF notes	from William Martin re: meeting [three notes], 1p	6/18/85	P1/F1 P5

### RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

*MSP 4/28/86*

RECEIVED 19 JUN 85 11

TO REGAN, D

FROM MCFARLANE

DOCDATE 19 JUN 85

NORTH

18 JUN 85

MARTIN

18 JUN 85

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM  
ISRAEL

HIJACKING

HOSKINS, JAMES J

RYAN, F

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR REGAN 19 JUN MTG W/ MOTHER OF HIJACKED HOSTAGE

ACTION: POINDEXTER SGD MEMO DUE: STATUS C FILES PA

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

NORTH

COVEY

TEICHER

MARTIN

PEARSON

COMMENTS

REF# LOG NSCIFID ( HW HW )

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

DISPATCH *6/19 BTM*

W/ATTCH FILE \_\_\_\_\_ (C)

National Security Council  
The White House

213

System #

I

Package #

4909

1834

85 JUN 19 A 7: 15

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	_____	_____	_____
William Martin	1	<u>WFM</u>	_____
John Poindexter	2	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Wilma Hall	_____	_____	_____
Bud McFarlane	_____	_____	_____
William Martin	3	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
NSC Secretariat	4	<u>[Signature]</u>	D
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____

I = Information    A = Action    R = Retain    D = Dispatch    N = No further Action

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Date/Time)

85 JUN 19 A 7: 15

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 19, 1985

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE SUBJECT: Talking Points for your meeting in Indianapolis  
with the Mother of James (Jeffrey) Hoskins

Attached at Tab I are talking points for your use in responding to the questions Mrs. Hoskins has raised. Her son, Jim (Jeffrey), is apparently still held by the hijackers of TWA Flight #847. He is one of the 26 passengers who signed the letter to the President requesting the release of the Israeli-held Shia prisoners.

Mrs. Hoskins is apparently very distraught and understandably concerned about the fate of her son. The questions she has raised were transcribed during various phone calls she made to the White House on June 18 during requests for a meeting with the President. You have agreed to a 15 minute meeting with Mrs. Hoskins while the Presidential party is in Indianapolis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you use the points above and at Tab A during your meeting with Mrs. Hoskins.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

Tab A - Talking Points

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH  
MOTHER OF JAMES (JEFFREY) HOSKINS  
HIJACKED HOSTAGE HELD IN BEIRUT

Q: Why is there no support group to provide information and respond to questions by the families of the hostages? Why must we rely on television?

A: Since the beginning of the current crisis a team of the officers from the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs has been working around the clock with out hijacked task force to keep the families of the Americans aboard flight #847 up to date on developments. Unfortunately, there are times when the international news media is able to report breaking events more quickly than the government is able to directly confirm valid information pertaining to the hostages and then contact the families. All hostage families are encouraged to contact the Task Force at (202) 653-7959 at hour to discuss any report which they received or any other problem pertaining to their loved ones.

Q: What is our general policy toward terrorism/hostage seizures and hijackings--past and present?

A: Our policy has been consistent--we will never make concessions to terrorists. The President reaffirmed this last night. You must know, however, that our principal goal is to obtain the safe release of the innocent American victims of terror in this dangerous and volatile situation.

In the past, this policy has proven its worth. Apparently, in the current situation, the hijackers feel off their original demand for the release of certain terrorists held in Kuwait because the Kuwaiti government has been steadfast in refusing to capitulate to threats--including an attempted assassination of their head of state.

While I certainly understand and sympathize with your concern for your son, we must as a government be equally concerned for the 235 million other Americans who would be placed at increased risk if were to concede to the hijackers.

Q: What is our stance vis-a-vis Israel?

A: The hijackers have demanded that 700 Lebanese prisoners of war--most of whom are Shia Moslems from southern Lebanon--be released as a pre-condition for the safe return of our citizens. The terrorists expect that we will pressure the Israeli government to meet this demand.

As the President said last night, "America will never make concessions to terrorists--nor will we ask nor pressure any other government to do so." This applies to Israel.

You should know, however, that the Israeli government has previously announced their intention to release these prisoners. We expect that they will do so but not under the duress of this kind of pressure. We are working with various intermediaries to relieve this situation so that the Israeli release will proceed as planned. Again, this seems like a very harsh policy, but nonetheless other terrorists in the world are watching this event very closely. If we are seen to be acceding to the terrorists, we place increasing numbers of Americans at significantly greater risks.

Q: Is the U.S. interested in saving face or saving lives?

A: As the President emphasized in his press conference on June 18, our primary concern is the safe release of the hostages. We are not going to change our longstanding policy on not giving into attempts by terrorists to obtain the release of their colleagues by capturing more hostages. This is not a matter of "face" but rather a matter of saving the lives of other Americans. If we agree to such demands now, it will simply encourage other terrorists to take more hostages when ever some of their colleagues are captured. While this policy has not yet resulted in the release of your son, we remain hopeful. By remaining steadfast in our resolve, we have already achieved the release of 110 of the captives.

Comment:

-- I understand that you have some suggestions about how we, as a government, can better respond to the needs of families under this kind of duress. I would welcome your suggestions and can assure you that I will pass them on to the President.



~~SECRET~~

SYSTEM I  
4909



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 18, 1985

~~SECRET~~/attached

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH

SIGNED

SUBJECT: Regan Talking Points

Attached at Tab I is a memo from you to Don Regan forwarding talking points for use during his meeting tomorrow in Indianapolis with the Mother of hijacked hostage James (Jeffrey) Hoskins.

This responds to the profs notes attached at Tab II.

RECOMMENDATION

That you initial and forward your memo to Don Regan attached at Tab I with the talking points (Tab A) attached.

Approve                     

Disapprove                     

Attachments

- Tab I - McFarlane Memo to Regan
- Tab A - Regan Talking Points
- Tab II - Profs Notes

DECLASSIFIED  
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997  
By msp NARA, Date 4/29/99

~~SECRET~~/attached  
Declassify: OADR

~~SECRET~~

MSG FROM: NSWFM --CPUA TO: NSOLN --CPUA  
To: NSOLN --CPUA

06/18/85 18:46:01

-- ~~SECRET~~ --

NOTE FROM: WILLIAM F. MARTIN

SUBJECT: Mother of hostage

Ryan reports that Regan has now agreed to meet with the mother who has posed him a series of questions she wants answered, including:

1) why isn't there a family support system 2) what is our general policy toward terrorism/hostage/hijacking - past and present 3) what is our stance vis a vis Israel and 4) is the US interested in saving face or saving lives. We are looking at about a fifteen minute meeting. She is highly emotional and has some personal suggestions about what can be done to comfort families.

Thanks Ollie. I know that you have plenty to do and hopefully some of this can be dovetailed. I think points made in Bud's presentation tomorrow could be helpful here.

cc: NSJMP --CPUA

NSWRP --CPUA

DECLASSIFIED  
NLS F97-048 # 4  
BY MSJ NARA, DATE 5/22/08

RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 2 LISTED ON THE  
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH  
MOTHER OF JAMES (JEFFREY) HOSKINS  
HIJACKED HOSTAGE HELD IN BEIRUT

*set up to handle this incident*

Q: Why is there no support group to provide information and respond to questions by the families of the hostages? Why must we rely on television?

A: Since the beginning of the current crisis a team of the officers from the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs has been working around the clock with out ~~hijacked~~ task force to keep the families of the Americans aboard flight #847 up to date on developments. Unfortunately, there are times when the international news media is able to report breaking events more quickly than the government is able to directly confirm valid information pertaining to the hostages and then contact the families. All hostage families are encouraged to contact the Task Force at (202) 653-7959 at hour to discuss any report which they received or any other problem pertaining to their loved ones.

*any*

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A: Our policy has been consistent--we will never make concessions to terrorists. The President reaffirmed this last night. You must know, however, that our principal goal is to obtain the safe release of the innocent American victims of terror in this dangerous and volatile situation.

*disposed*

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Comment:

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Pulled For

IRAN

INVESTIGATION

PA Files

4909

6

DECEMBER 1986