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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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**Collection Name** EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: SYSTEM I FILES  
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**Withdrawer**

CAS 3/29/2016

**File Folder** 8590702

**FOIA**

M481

**Box Number**

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| ID     | Doc Type | Document Description  | No of Pages | Doc Date  | Restrictions |
|--------|----------|---|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 174341 | MEMO     | NICHOLAS PALTT TO MCFARLANE RE TWA<br>HIJACKING-STATUS OF INITIATIVES | 3           | 6/21/1985 | B1           |
|        |          | <b>D 5/23/2000 F97-045 #22; R 2/25/2019 M481<br/>#174341</b>          |             |           |              |

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

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- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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ID 8590702

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RECEIVED 22 JUN 85 13

FROM PLATT, N

DOC DATE 21 JUN 85

TO MCFARLANE

*msn  
4/28/99*

KEYWORDS HIJACKING

TERRORISM

LEBANON

SWITZERLAND

ISRAEL

SUBJECT TWA HIJACKING / STATUS OF INITIATIVES

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE

DUE: 24 JUN 85 STATUS S FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

NORTH

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COMMENTS

REF# 8518480

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ACTION OFFICER (S)

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ACTION REQUIRED

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W/ATTCH FILE (C)

National Security Council  
The White House

System # II  
Package # 90702

|                 | SEQUENCE TO | HAS SEEN | DISPOSITION  |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| Bob Pearson     | <u>1</u>    | <u>P</u> |              |
| William Martin  |             |          |              |
| John Poindexter |             |          |              |
| Paul Thompson   |             |          |              |
| Wilma Hall      |             |          |              |
| Bud McFarlane   |             |          |              |
| William Martin  |             |          |              |
| NSC Secretariat | <u>2</u>    |          | <u>staff</u> |
| Situation Room  |             |          | <u>asap</u>  |

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

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

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date/Time)

Action: North  
Comment: Teicher  
Info: Covey

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SYSTEM II  
90702

90702

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVEMEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE  
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: TWA Hijacking - Status of Initiatives

There follows a report of the current status of our initiatives to obtain the release of the hijacked TWA aircraft and its passengers and crew.

Discussions With Barri

Reg Bartholomew spoke at length today with Nabih Barri, who gave no indication that the hijackers were prepared to back down on their demand for the release of the Ansar prisoners. Reg led him through our position again, forcefully underlining that Barri had no choice but to remain engaged, and that he must persuade the hijackers their strategy would not work. Barri also told Reg he had not succeeded in his efforts to join the small group that had been earlier removed from the aircraft with the rest of the passengers, but that he had obtained a guarantee they would be released along with the larger group. A number of key Lebanese leaders, including Sheikh Fadlallah and Shia Parliamentary Speaker Hussein al-Husseini, issued statements against the hijacking, apparently in response to Reg's earlier urging.

ICRC

In his meeting today with the Secretary, ICRC President Hay discussed how ICRC could cooperate in exploring mechanisms for release of the hostages.

Swiss Activities

Following up on his earlier conversation with Barri, Swiss Foreign Minister Aubert spoke with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir, after the Swiss were told the U.S. had no objection, but that their action would be a unilateral Swiss decision without implication regarding U.S. policy. Aubert conveyed to Shamir that Barri had said he needed to obtain the release of the Ansar prisoners, and asked Shamir if Israel wish to offer any assurances on the future release of the Ansar prisoners through the government of Switzerland. Shamir reportedly did not respond.

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DECL: OADR

NLRR M4811 #174341  
BY RW NARA DATE 2/25/19

Israel

The Israelis have informed us that 31 of the Ansar prisoners may be released as early as next week. The group is reportedly to include both Lebanese and Palestinians. According to the Foreign Ministry, this group may have been involved in an appeal to the Israeli courts concerning their status, and the GOI may have decided to release them rather than face a judicial process which would require justification of their continued detention.

Echoing Peres' statement from yesterday, Foreign Minister Shamir voiced agreement with U.S. terrorism policy, while noting Israel's intention to release the Ansar prisoners, but not under pressure from hijackers.

European Initiative

Regarding our request for a public statement on the hijacking, the response of host governments and international organizations has been sympathetic, and many have promised to consider seriously our request. Fifteen governments have issued statements so far, either formally or as statements to the press. Eleven others have given virtual assurances of such. Responses from EC governments indicate they intend to issue a collective statement and may have Italy in its capacity as EC President make a demarche to the Lebanese government. The head of the Islamic Conference Organization intends to issue a statement against both the hostage-taking and Israel's imprisonment of the Ansar detainees.

Private Initiatives

Congressman Nick Rahhal, who has met with Barri several times in the past, expressed interest in being helpful. We suggested that a message from him, reinforcing our position, would be a useful contribution. A similar suggestion was passed to Mohammed Ali, through his advisor, who had called to inquire how Mohammed Ali might help fully follow up on his previous messages to Sheikh Shams ad-Din and Barri's deputy.

*Nicholas Platt*  
for Nicholas Platt  
Executive Secretary

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