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Release of Hostages & State Draft Presidential
Statement and Speech Insertion

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MSP 4/29/80

RECEIVED 28 JUN 85 09

TO MCFARLANE

FROM PLATT, N

DOCDATE 27 JUN 85

NORTH

27 JUN 85

FORTIER

27 JUN 85

KEYWORDS: TERRORISM

HIJACKING

LEBANON

SPEECHES

SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS MATERIALS ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES & STATE CONTINGENCY
DRAFT PRES STATEMENT & SPEECH INSERTION

ACTION: FOR DECISION DUE: STATUS X FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

MARTIN

MCDANIEL

SIMS, B

COMMENTS

REF# 8519150

LOG

NSCIFID

(B / *B*)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

C 6/29 ORE per Ponderosa DT, DE, SC, HT

DISPATCH _____

W/ATTCH FILE _____ (C)

National Security Council
The White House

System #

228
Sy II

85 JUN 28 A 7: 12

Package #

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson			
William Martin	1	WMM	
John Poindexter	2	J	
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane	3	W	A
William Martin	5	WMM	
NSC Secretariat	6	BSI	N
Situation Room			
JP	4	J	

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

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other Before Chicago Dep. ASAP

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

Bud,
What you saw this morning was
what State sent over. I think this
statement and insert is much better.
The tone of State's praises Barri and Syre
too much. Q's and A's have little charge.

85 JUN 28 A 7: 12

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SYSTEM II
90727



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 27, 1985

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH
DONALD R. FORTIER
HOWARD R. TEICHER
JAMES P. COVEY

J
NRT

SUBJECT: Public Affairs Materials on Release of American Hostages

Attached at Tab I, per your request, is a draft Presidential statement for use upon release of the American hostages. At Tab II is a proposed addition to the terrorism insert for the President's Chicago speech. Q&A's are attached at Tab III. These include our modifications, and we have directed the State task force to dispatch the Q&A's per your instructions (0200).

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the public affairs material contained in this package.

Approve LOBE Disapprove _____

Attachments

- Tab I - Presidential Statement
- Tab II - Proposed Presidential Speech Insert
- Tab III - Contingency Press Guidance (Q&A's)

cc: Bob Sims
Bill Martin
Rod McDaniel

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By 17217 NARA, Date 4/27/99

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TAB

I

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Until Release by White House

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

I was gratified to learn of the release of thirty-nine Americans who have been held hostage by terrorists in Lebanon. Americans everywhere can share in the relief of the freed hostages and their families. We can be satisfied, too, that our firmness paid off. It is also a day, however, on which Americans must renew their resolve to fight terrorism and to obtain the release of the remaining hostages.

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.

With thirty-nine of our citizens now safe, we expect these countries to continue their effort--to free the seven Americans kidnapped in Lebanon over the past year and half who, along with nationals of other countries, continue to languish in captivity. Their captivity is intolerable. It cannot continue. Efforts to secure their freedom will not cease.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By WJH NARA, Date 4/24/99

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Our moment of satisfaction in no way diminishes our conviction that Beirut is a safe haven for terrorists who prey upon civil air traffic throughout the Middle East and Europe. Civilized nations must take the necessary measures to deal with this horrible reality and put Beirut airport off limits as an international terrorist base.

The community of civilized nations must also ensure that no criminals such as those responsible for the outrages in Beirut are beyond the reach of justice. If such barbarians are safe anywhere, then no one else can be. We can begin with the arrest and prosecution ^{of} ~~with~~ those who killed Navy man Robert Stethem. But we must not rest so long as there is a haven anywhere for those who practice the barbarity of air piracy and terrorism.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TAB

II

ADDENDUM TO INSERT FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH IN CHICAGO

(This Passage Should Immediately Precede the Terrorism Insert)

I was gratified to learn of the release of thirty-nine Americans who have been held hostage by terrorists in Lebanon. Americans everywhere can share in the relief of the freed hostages and their families. We can be satisfied, too, that our firmness paid off. It is also a day, however, on which Americans must renew their resolve to fight terrorism and to obtain the release of the seven Americans kidnapped in Lebanon over the past year and half who, along with nationals of other countries, continue to languish in captivity. Their captivity is intolerable. It cannot continue. Efforts to secure their freedom will not cease.

TAB

III

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Until Released by White House

CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE (Q&A's)
Release of American Hostages

Q: Was the release of the hostages part of a deal? Did we give written 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.

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

A: Israel's policy of 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 and without relevance ~~that their release~~ to the repatriation of the American hostages.

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

A: Our position is clear. We were not making deals nor asking others to do so.

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: No, I'm not going to comment on that. Our position all along has been that there shall be no linkage; that all the hostages should be released quickly, safely, and unconditionally. This policy has been maintained.

As we have noted previously, the Israelis said before the hijacking that they planned to release the prisoners. Indeed, some releases had taken place and some additional releases had been planned before the hijacking of TWA #847. The hijacking thus inserted itself into the process that already was underway of releasing the Lebanese prisoners.

DECLASSIFIED

White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997

By 1427 NARA, Date 4/29/99

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2

Until Release by White House

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 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: We are continuing to work for their release and again call upon the kidnapers to release them. Moreover, we call upon those who played a decisive role in bringing about the release of the 39 hostages to continue their effort and end the nightmare for these seven and their families.

The kidnappings of these Americans and ^{PEOPLE} [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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WHSR
ROUTE SLIP

Time Stamp

STAFF	C/O
McFarlane	
Poindexter	
Martin	O/C
Thompson	
Pearson	
Merchant	
NSC S/S	

85 JUN 28 A 6: 50

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

Delivered Eyes
Only

LDX
Approval: _____

C : Copy O : Original

copy to McFarlane
Poindexter
Fortier
(WFM to provide at staff
meeting)



S/S:8519150
United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SYSTEM II
90727

June 27, 1985

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Contingency draft presidential statement and
speech insertion on release of the hostages.

Enclosed are a contingency draft presidential statement for
the President's possible use in the event that the 39 TWA
hostages are released, a draft insertion for the President's
speech, and a packet of Qs and As on the subject.


Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

Attachments: as stated.

DECLASSIFIED
Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
By M-37 NARA, Date 4/29/99

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
DECL: OADR

85 JUN 28

A 9: 26

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH INSERT ON HOSTAGES

Today marks a special occasion for each and every American, as we join in celebrating the release of the thirty-nine hostages who were hijacked aboard TWA flight 847. Their liberation serves as a clear reminder to all of us that America must constantly defend its cherished freedom from those who would seek to destroy it. It also reminds us of the need to continue our efforts for the release of the seven Americans who still remain kidnapped in Lebanon.

The help and cooperation of others played an important role in the return of the Americans taken hostage on TWA flight 847. Lebanese Minister of Justice Nabih Berri helped ensure the health and safety of the hostages. President Gemayel participated in his capacity as leader of Lebanon. The Syrian government was particularly active in its efforts to secure the release of this group of hostages. We also acknowledge with gratitude the steps taken by the government of Algeria to avert a tragic outcome at the outset and to obtain the freedom of a large number of our citizens. Throughout the past _____ days, we have also been in close touch with Israel, with a number of governments in Europe and in the Middle East, as well as with international organizations, all of whom have demonstrated their concern for the well-being and for the release of these Americans.

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

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The elation which their return sparks in our hearts is not complete, however. Our joy is tinged by sorrow at the thought of the hostage who did not return -- Robert Stethem, a brave, young American serving his country so brutally and casually murdered.

We are even more determined to obtain the release of the seven other American citizens who still remain kidnapped in Lebanon. Our efforts will not cease until they too have been returned to their families. We shall also do our best to help those nationals of other countries being held, and call once again for their immediate release. There can be no excuse for such acts of inhumanity as the taking of hostages. For its part, our country will make no concessions, pay no dues to terrorists.

This hijacking, like all other acts of terrorism, strikes at the very heart of those principles which form the foundation of the international community. We must not allow the resolution of this hijacking to obscure an essential fact -- terrorism continues to threaten all civilized nations. Those who hijacked our aircraft, killed and terrorized our citizens, and brought such pain to their families and friends, and who

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

- 3 -

have done the same to others, must be punished. West Beirut, in particular, remains a haven for air pirates and other terrorists. Let no one doubt our determination to redress this situation. Let the return of these thirty-nine Americans mark the beginning of our efforts to attack the problem of terrorism at its roots.

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

The release of the thirty-nine Americans who have been held hostage by terrorists in Lebanon marks a special day. It is a day when Americans everywhere can join with the freed hostages and their families in renewing their commitment to the principle of liberty which guided the founding fathers of this country. It is also a day in which all Americans must renew their resolve to fight terrorism and to obtain the release of the remaining hostages. Freedom is a cherished privilege which must be defended against those who seek to subvert it by violence and terror.

Civilized nations throughout the international community must work together to prevent wanton acts of terrorism like hijacking and hostage taking. This problem extends beyond borders and supercedes political differences. In this case, several countries actively cooperated in efforts to free our citizens and the resolution of this hijacking is a success we gratefully share. Syria provided crucial assistance in helping to end this crisis. Lebanese Minister of Justice Nabih Berri helped ensure the health and safety of the hostages. President Gemayel participated in his capacity as leader of Lebanon. The efforts of the Algerian government were likewise an example of constructive cooperation against the direct challenge of

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

-2-

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 them displayed great concern for the safety and release of the hostages.

Even as the U.S. maintained a tireless watch until the TWA hostages had safely returned, there must be no less constancy in the vigil we keep for the seven Americans kidnapped in Lebanon over the past year and a half who, along with nationals of other countries, continue to languish in captivity. We deplore their continued detention and call for their immediate release. Our efforts to secure their freedom will not cease. We trust that the governments who were active in obtaining the release of the thirty-nine will be equally active in helping us obtain the release of the other seven.

Their continuing captivity is a reminder that terrorism continues to threaten all of us. The resolution of the hijacking crisis in no way diminishes our conviction that Beirut provides a safe haven for terrorists who prey upon civil air traffic throughout the Middle East and Europe. The international community must take the necessary measures to deal with this horrible reality and put an end to these acts of piracy, just as it did with the pirates of the nineteenth century.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

-3-

A first step would be the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the murder of Robert Stethem. A second step would be for BIA to put itself off limits to the terrorists or for the world to put BIA off limits.

~~SECRET~~

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
Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
By MSH NARA, Date 4/24/94

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; we were not making deals nor asking others to do so. It has also been our longstanding position from well before the hijacking that the transfer of the Lebanese prisoners from Al Ansar to Israel and detaining them there was inconsistent with the Geneva Convention. Israel's policy of release of the prisoners also predates the hijacking.

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: --No, I'm not going to comment on that. Our position all along has been that there shall be no linkage; that all the hostages should be released quickly, safely, and unconditionally. This policy has been maintained throughout.

-- As we have noted previously, the Israelis said before the hijacking that they planned to release the prisoners. Indeed, some releases had taken place and some additional releases had been planned before the hijacking of TWA 847. The hijacking thus inserted itself into the process that already was underway of releasing the Lebanese prisoners.

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. was not going to make deals or concessions and the longer the situation dragged on, the more difficult it would be for everyone concerned, including the Shiites. I think the firm resolve of the Administration, backed by the American public and Congress were very important. 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 affront 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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MJP 4/29/97

EOB: ROOM 300

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 52

DOCUMENT NUMBER = SY18590727

DESC PUBLIC AFFAIRS MATERIALS ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES & STATE CONTINGENCY
DRAFT PRES STATEMENT & SPEECH INSERTION

KEYWORDS TERRORISM HIJACKING LEBANON
SPEECHES

DOCDATE 850627

RCVDATE 850628

STATUS C

I ACTION FOR DECISION

I ACTOFF MCFARLANE

INFO MARTIN MCDANIEL SIMS, B

UPDATES 850629 OBE PER POINDEXTER

SOURCES PLATT, N NORTH FORTIER
TEICHER TEICHER

FILE/OC SII

STAFF/OFF NORTH / FORTIER

Already Pulled

F1