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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name ~~MCNAMARA, THOMAS E. FILES~~
Counterterrorism and Narcotics

Withdrawer

DLB 3/4/2008

File Folder FRANCE I (01/14/1987-03/08/1987)

FOIA

F97-082-3

Box Number ~~92299~~ *RAC Box 5*

WILLS, DAVID

1

ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
51747 CABLE	#142215Z JAN 87	3	1/14/1987	B1
51748 CABLE	#241214Z JAN 87	4	1/24/1987	B1
51750 CABLE	#301058Z JAN 87	2	1/30/1987	B1
51752 CABLE	#021703Z FEB 87	5	2/2/1987	B1
51753 CABLE	#271505Z FEB 87	3	2/27/1987	B1
51755 CABLE	NO CABLE NUMBER, RE: ABDALLAH STATEMENT AT TRIAL	3	ND	B1
51756 CABLE	#281756Z FEB 87	3	2/28/1987	B1
51757 CABLE	#281537Z FEB 87	3	2/28/1987	B1
51759 AGENDA	US-FRENCH BILATERALS MARCH	4	ND	B1

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

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

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

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

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ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
51761 CABLE	#021809Z MAR 87	3	3/2/1987	B1

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51747	CABLE #142215Z JAN 87	3	1/14/1987	B1

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51748	CABLE #241214Z JAN 87	4	1/24/1987	B1

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51750	CABLE #301058Z JAN 87	2	1/30/1987	B1

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51752	CABLE	5	2/2/1987	B1
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Benny:

This is the basis of the present
trip through Paris on her way to Rome.

R

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51753	CABLE #271505Z FEB 87	3	2/27/1987	B1

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51755	CABLE NO CABLE NUMBER, RE: ABDALLAH STATEMENT AT TRIAL	3	ND	B1

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	<i>Document Description</i>	<i>pages</i>		<i>tions</i>
51756	CABLE	3	2/28/1987	B1
	#281756Z FEB 87			

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

2-Mar-1987 08:19 EST

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MCNAMARA

FROM:

WHSR@VAXE
(jnet%MRGATE)

SUBJECT:

Received: From VAXE(WHSR) by VAXC with RSCS id 6152
for MCNAMARA@VAXC; Sat, 28-FEB-1987 10:56 EST
Date: Sat, 28-FEB-1987 10:59 EST
From: <WHSR@VAXE>
To: MCNAMARA@VAXC

<DIST>
PRT: OAKLEY
SIT: NSTC EOB NSDBK MCNAMARA VAX NSJHO

<PREC>
IMMEDIATE
<CLAS>
UNCLASSIFIED
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RUFHFR
<DTG>
281534Z FEB 87

<ORIG>
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

<TO>
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9210
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6323
RUFJCX/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG IMMEDIATE 4206
RUFJCX/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE IMMEDIATE 2051
RUFJCX/AMCONSUL LYON IMMEDIATE 3871
RUFJCX/AMCONSUL BORDEAUX IMMEDIATE 2561

<SUBJ>
SUBJECT: TEXT OF AMBASSADOR RODGERS' PRESS CONFERENCE
FOLLOWING ABDALLAH SENTENCING

<TEXT>
BT
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 10515
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: NONE
SUBJECT: TEXT OF AMBASSADOR RODGERS' PRESS CONFERENCE
FOLLOWING ABDALLAH SENTENCING

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF OPENING STATEMENT AND
OTHER REMARKS MADE BY US AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE JOE M.
RODGERS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
IN PARIS, FEBRUARY 28, AFTER A FRENCH COURT CONVICTED
TERRORIST GEORGES IBRAHIM ABDALLAH TO A LIFE SENTENCE
FOR COMPLICITY IN THE MURDERS OF TWO DIPLOMATS, ONE OF
THEM AMERICAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES RAY, AND THE
ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF ANOTHER US DIPLOMAT. ROBERT

HOMME.

---OPENING STATEMENT---

"THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED THAT GEORGE IBRAHIM ABDALLAH WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED FOR COMPLICITY IN THE ASSASSINATION OF LT. COL. CHARLES RAY AND THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF CONSUL GENERAL ROBERT HOMME. BY JOINING AS PARTIE CIVILE, THE UNITED STATES SOUGHT JUSTICE FOR OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING IN FRANCE WHO WERE VICTIMS OF THESE TERRORIST ACTIONS. WE SOUGHT AS WELL TO UNDERLINE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND TO THE RULE OF LAW WHICH SERVES CIVILIZATION AS ITS ULTIMATE AND MOST APPROPRIATE DEFENSE AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF THOSE WHO VIOLATE ITS MOST SACRED PRINCIPLES OF WHICH THE FIRST IS 'THOU SHALL NOT KILL.'

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, WELCOMES THE DECISION BY THE SPECIAL FRENCH COURT. WHAT WE SOUGHT IN THIS TRIAL WAS JUSTICE AND JUSTICE HAS BEEN RENDERED.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE REST OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH THE US LAWYER IN THE ABDALLAH CASE, GEORGES KIEJMAN, PARTICIPATED ALONG WITH AMBASSADOR RODGERS:

Q. (PARTIALLY INAUDIBLE QUESTION ON THE LIKELY EFFECT ON THE FRENCH HOSTAGES IN LEBANON OF THIS DECISION.)
RODGERS: IN THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY WE NEED TO TAKE A STAND. I AM VERY PROUD OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TODAY FOR TAKING A STAND IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY. WE WILL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THIS LATER AND WE MUST FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEFENDING DEMOCRACY JUST AS WE DID DURING OUR WORLD WARS AND IN OTHER WAYS. WE ARE AT WAR AND WE ARE DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

Q. (QUESTION OF THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE USG MAKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT A FRENCH LEGAL ACTION NOW OR AS IT DID LAST JULY.)

A. WELL, FIRST, THANKS TO THE FRENCH JUDICIAL SYSTEM, WE WERE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRIAL AS A PARTIE CIVILE. WE APPRECIATED THAT OPPORTUNITY AND, THROUGH OUR ATTORNEY, WHO DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB, WE WERE REPRESENTED IN THIS COURT IN THE PROPER MANNER OF THE FRENCH JUDICIAL SYSTEM. SO, NO, WE ARE NOT INTERFERING IN ANY WAY IN THE FRENCH JUDICIAL SYSTEM. WE AVOIDED MAKING ANY COMMENT DURING THIS TRIAL, BUT WE WERE REPRESENTED BY OUR ATTORNEY, AND THROUGH OUR ATTORNEY, AS PARTIE CIVILE. SO WE ARE PLEASED THAT WE WERE ALLOWED TO DO THAT. WE FEEL DUE PROCESS HAS BEEN DONE. WE ASKED FOR JUSTICE "ET LA JUSTICE A ETE RENDUE."

Q. (QUESTION ABOUT WHAT THE USG WOULD HAVE SAID IF ABDALLAH HAD BEEN ACQUITTED.)

A. WELL, I DON'T THINK HE SHOULD TALK ABOUT "WHAT IF." AGAIN, WE ASKED THAT DUE PROCESS BE GIVEN, THAT JUSTICE BE DEMANDED, AND WE FEEL VERY GOOD THAT DUE PROCESS WAS GIVEN.

Q. (QUESTION WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR WOULD CRITICIZE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROSECUTOR IN THE TRIAL WHO, YESTERDAY, CALLED FOR ABDALLAH TO BE GIVEN A LIGHT SENTENCE.)

A. JUSTICE WAS RENDERED--THAT'S MY TOTAL COMMENT. THE

BT

#0515

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 10515

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: TEXT OF AMBASSADOR RODGERS' PRESS CONFERENCE

OUTCOME OF THE DECISION TELLS IT ALL. THERE IS NO USE

US TALKING ABOUT WHO DID A GOOD JOB AND WHO DIDN'T. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR ATTORNEY. THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL SPEAKS ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE SAID.

Q. (QUESTION WHETHER STATEMENTS MADE BY THE EMBASSY LAST JULY AND AGAIN TODAY WERE NOT ACTUALLY AN INTERFERENCE IN FRENCH INTERNAL AFFAIRS.)

A. YOU MAY BE SURE THAT THE STATEMENT THIS EMBASSY MADE IN THE LYON CASE WAS NOT INTERFERING. IN OUR OPINION, IN THE FRENCH LEGAL SYSTEM, WE HAVE BEEN VERY CAREFUL NOT TO DO THAT. THE FRENCH JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS THEIR SYSTEM AND WE ARE STAYING OUT OF IT. I AM SURE WE WOULD HAVE HAD A PRESS CONFERENCE NO MATTER WHAT THE RESULTS OF THIS TRIAL HAD BEEN. BUT AGAIN I SAY THERE'S NO USE IN TALKING ABOUT WHAT IF, BECAUSE IT DIDN'T HAPPEN. WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT JUSTICE WAS RENDERED.

Q. (QUESTION ABOUT ALLEGED INCONSISTENCY IN THE AMERICAN POSITION WITH THE USG "PRESSURING" FRANCE TO BE TOUGH WITH TERRORISTS AT THE SAME TIME IN "IRANGATE" THE US WAS ATTEMPTING TO TRADE ARMS FOR HOSTAGES.)

A. WELL, ABOUT PUSHING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT--WE DIDN'T PUSH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT USED ITS SYSTEM TO TRY A PERSON FOR COMPLICITY IN MURDER. AND A JUDGE, A SPECIAL JUDGE AND TRIBUNAL FOUND HIM GUILTY. SO WE DID NOT PUSH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN ANY WAY. WE WERE ALLOWED TO BE REPRESENTED IN COURT AS A PARTIE CIVILE. OUR ATTORNEY WAS ALLOWED TO GET ALL THE EVIDENCE OUT AND INTO THE COURT, AND WE APPRECIATE THAT.

Q. (ANOTHER QUESTION ON AMERICAN ARMS SALES TO IRAN.)

A. AGAIN, I ANSWERED THAT BY SAYING THAT FRANCE JUST USED ITS JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO TRY A CRIMINAL. THEY TRIED A CRIMINAL AND FOUND HIM GUILTY. THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR POLICY IN IRAN. THEY USED THEIR JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO TRY A CRIMINAL AND CONVICT HIM.

Q. AT YOUR URGING?

A. NO, NOT AT OUR URGING, AT THEIR SYSTEM'S URGING TOO. THE FRENCH URGED--THE FRENCH FIRST BROUGHT THIS PERSON TO TRIAL. THE FRENCH SYSTEM WORKED.

Q. (QUESTION ASSERTING THAT THERE WERE LEGAL RESTRICTIONS OF COMMENTING ON A TRIAL JUDGMENT IN FRANCE.)

A. WELL, WE ARE HERE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS BY THE NEWS MEDIA, AND WE ARE DOING THAT. IF IT VIOLATES ANY FRENCH LAW, IT IS NOT ONE THAT I KNOW OF.

Q. (FOLLOW-UP QUESTION ON SAME SUBJECT.)

RODGERS: WE SHOULDN'T ALWAYS TRY TO FIND WAYS TO CAUSE TROUBLE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH IS WHAT THE TONE OF THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN. WE NEED TO BE VERY PLEASED BY THE FACT THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE TODAY. WE WERE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE AS PARTIE CIVILE IN YOUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM. WE NEVER INTERFERED IN THAT SYSTEM. I THINK THAT THE SYSTEM HAS WORKED ON BEHALF OF DEMOCRACY, AND WE HAVE DEFENDED DEMOCRACY TODAY. TOGETHER WE HAVE DEFENDED DEMOCRACY TODAY.

Q. (QUESTION ON HOW THE USG WOULD FEEL IF THERE WERE MORE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN FRANCE IN WAKE OF THE ABDALLAH DECISION.)

A. WELL, E WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED AND VERY SAD. I THINK THE WAY WE TRY TO COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER IN THE FUTURE IS TO CONTINUE OUR VERY CLOSE COOPERATION BILATERALLY, STRESS MULTI-LATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL THE COUNTRIES IN EUROPE, AND IN THE FREE WORLD TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT WHEN THESE CASES HAPPEN, IF THEY DO HAPPEN, THAT WE CATCH THE PERPETRATORS, JUST LIKE YOUR
BT

#0515

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 10515

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: TEXT OF AMBASSADOR RODGERS' PRESS CONFERENCE
FRENCH POLICE DID SO BRILLIANTLY RECENTLY WITH THE FOUR
ACTION DIRECTE MEMBERS. I FEEL JUSTICE WILL BE DONE.

Q. (QUESTION WHETHER FRANCE COULD BE PARTIE CIVILE OR
CIVIL PLAINTIVE IN A SIMILAR CASE IN THE UNITED STATES.)

REPLY BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ADVISOR SCHLITZ: NO, IT
COULD ASSIST IN A PROSECUTION BUT IT COULD NOT BE A
CIVIL PARTY.

Q. (INAUDIBLE QUESTION.)

RODGERS: WELL, WE FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT ABDULLAH WAS
GUILTY OF COMPLICITY IN MURDER BECAUSE OF THE EVIDENCE
WE HAD SEEN. THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO GO FORWARD. WE
WOULD NOT HAVE GONE FORWARD HAD WE NOT THOUGHT THAT
THERE WAS A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF CONVICTION.

Q. (INAUDIBLE FOLLOW-UP.)

A. IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF
CONVICTION WE WOULD NOT HAVE GONE FORWARD. THANK YOU
VERY MUCH. END OF PRESS CONFERENCE TRANSCRIPT.

COURTNEY

BT

#0515

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SECTION: 01 OF 03

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SECTION: 02 OF 03

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51759	AGENDA US-FRENCH BILATERALS MARCH	4	ND	B1

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