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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name NORTH, OLIVER: FILES

Withdrawer

DLB 6/6/2005

File Folder NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, 01/07/1986
VICE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON COMBATTING
TERRORISM

FOIA

F99-008/2

Box Number 32

WILLS

44

ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
13076 MEMO	BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT, RE: MEETING WITH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL	2	1/6/1986	B1
13077 TALKING POINTS	ON NSC MEETING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON COMBATTING TERRORISM	2	ND	B1
13078 NSDD	UNMARKED DRAFT NSDD ON THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR COMBATTING TERRORISM	9	ND	B1

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

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
7 JANUARY 1986

VICE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON
COMBATting TERRORISM

ADMIRAL J. L. HOLLOWAY, III

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURES

dlb 6/10/05

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 7, 1986
Cabinet Room
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

NSDD to Implement Report of the Vice President's
Task Force on Combatting Terrorism

Agenda

- | | |
|--|---|
| I. Introduction | John M. Poindexter
(3 minutes) |
| II. Description of Task Force Report | The Vice President
(5 minutes)
ADM J. L. Holloway, III
(5 minutes) |
| III. Survey of U.S. Public Attitudes
on Terrorism | Edward Ney
Susan Gianinno
(15 minutes) |
| IV. Description of Implementing NSDD | John M. Poindexter
(3 minutes) |
| V. Discussion of NSDD | All
(20 minutes) |
| VI. Concluding Remarks | John M. Poindexter
(5 minutes) |

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White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By dlb NARA Date 5/31/05

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Tuesday, January 7, 1986
Cabinet Room
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

NSDD to Implement Report of the Vice President's
Task Force on Combatting Terrorism

List of Participants

The President
The Vice President

Department of State

Secretary George P. Shultz
Ambassador Robert Oakley

Department of the Treasury

Secretary James Baker
Robert Kimmitt

Department of Defense

Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger
Noel Koch

Attorney General

Attorney General Edwin Meese
Lowell Jensen

Department of Transportation

Secretary Elizabeth Dole
Matthew Scocozza

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Office of Management and Budget

Director James Miller
Alton Keel

Central Intelligence

Director William J. Casey
Charles Allen

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr.
LtGen John Moellering

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Judge William Webster
Oliver Revell

Office of the Vice President

Craig Fuller
Donald T. Gregg

White House

Donald Regan
John M. Poindexter
Fred F. Fielding

National Security Council

Oliver L. North
Robert Earl
Craig Coy

Task Force on Combatting Terrorism

Admiral James Holloway, III
Patrick Daly

Young and Rubicam Survey Group

Edward Ney
Susan Gianinno

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**TERRORISM: VIEWPOINT OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE**

**Prepared for
The Task Force on Terrorism**

**Conducted by
Young & Rubicam Inc.
POPULUS, Inc.**

December, 1985

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- **To determine what terrorism means to the people of the United States**
- **To identify what people know about and associate with terrorism; to determine the level and extent of their knowledge about the subject**
- **To understand how the nature of a terrorist event affects public reactions to it**
- **To identify people's wants of and expectations from Washington, and to understand the principles underlying desirable US policy**
- **To understand how best to communicate the Government's policies and actions regarding terrorism**

RESEARCH DESIGN

Method

- In-depth motivational research utilizing focused group interviews and scalar attitudinal data

Sample

- 106 men and women, 18 to 64 years of age
- Balanced for political ideology
- Regular readers/viewers of news
- Des Moines, IA; Trumbull, CT; New York City; Ft. Worth, TX; Van Nuys, CA

MEANINGS OF TERRORISM

Central

- Focus is on fear: fear for life, not property
- Innocent, unarmed people are the victims
- Random, unpredictable attacks that are "against the rules"
- Act itself is not directly related to objectives
- Undeclared ("poor man's") war: unfair
- Goals are political, for power
- Lack regard for human life including own: fanatics
- Can't know who or where they are; therefore can't catch them
- Effective because they garner America's attention

Peripheral

- Murder
- Assaults on military personnel
- Covert activity by CIA
- Freedom fighter versus terrorist
- "Americans, go home"

Tangential

- Assassinations
- "Crazies" shooting people
- Local crime (robbery, mugging, rape)

AMERICANS' LEVEL AND EXTENT OF KNOWLEDGE

- **Function of personal values and lifestyles;
reflected in geography and media habits**
 - **Mix of media determines outlook**
 - **Television heightens awareness, sensitivity**
 - **Print increases knowledge of "facts," concern**
 - **Travel abroad**

- **Results in two attitudinal orientations toward
terrorism**
 - **Self directed**

 - **World directed**

ATTITUDINAL ORIENTATIONS TOWARD TERRORISM

"SELF DIRECTED"

- **Demography: Older, more likely to be female, live in heartland of America, less educated, television primary source of news information**

- **Perceptual Framework:**
 - **Little knowledge and less understanding result in this segment's combining terrorism with other forms of violence which represent greater personal threats**

 - **Focus is on self: personal threat or endangerment; thus crime is more real than international terrorism**

 - **Terrorism is most often seen as unrelated or disconnected events with little attention given to perpetrators or causes**

 - **Motivations and objectives of international terrorists are irrelevant**

 - **Desire for understanding is minimal**

REVISION IN PROCESS

ATTITUDINAL ORIENTATIONS TOWARD TERRORISM

"WORLD DIRECTED"

- **Demography: Younger, more likely to be male, live in major cities, more educated, print supplements television as a source of news information**

- **Perceptual Framework:**
 - **More complete knowledge and understanding result in this segment's ability to...**
 - ...recognize specific terrorist groups
 - ...discuss their objectives imprecisely
 - ...relate terrorism to other world events

 - **They have a more focused understanding of terrorism as a result of wider interests and more selective use of media information**

 - **International terrorism is personally more threatening (especially if they travel abroad) and this makes them angry because it limits their freedom**

REVISION IN PROCESS

HOW DOES TERRORISM AFFECT AMERICANS' LIVES

No direct effect

- **Altering the travel intentions of some**
- **US experiences virtually no domestic terrorism**

Twofold indirect effect

- **Affects their perception of America as a powerful, strong, "good" country and world leader**
 - **They see America's status being reduced to that of a pawn: powerless, easily manipulated, and at the mercy of those who attack us because we cannot fight back**
 - **They feel fearful, vulnerable, helpless, victimized, angry**
 - **They believe their "rights" are being taken away from them**
- **Intrudes into Americans' lives and living rooms through television. Interferes with what they see and read disproportionately to its importance**

HOW DOES THE NATURE OF AN EVENT AFFECT PUBLIC REACTIONS

- **Reactions are most powerful when:**
 - **Focus is on Americans**
 - **Individual anguish is dramatized**
 - **Victims are truly innocent rather than government associated**
 - **Victims do not intentionally expose themselves to risk**

- **Reactions are primarily media driven**

"IS TERRORISM EVER JUSTIFIED?"

- **Knowledge of situation**
 - **"Self Directed" versus "World Directed"**
 - **Historical or political background can provide rational justification**

- **Sympathy with cause**
 - **My country right or wrong**
 - **My kind of people**
 - **They don't know any better**

- **Tactics employed**
 - **Relevance of victims to objectives**
 - **Lack of alternatives**
 - **Level of violence**

- **"Couldn't" and "shouldn't" happen in America because of our rights and freedom**

TERRORISM AND THE MEDIA

Creates cross-pressure

- Terrorists use the media to achieve their goals
- Access to the media provides the power terrorists seek
- Media may exaggerate the incident
- Media sensationalize the incident

...HOWEVER...

- Americans believe in the absolute Freedom of the Press as guaranteed by the First Amendment: They want the media to be open and not censored

TERRORISM AND THE MEDIA (Continued)

Results in resigned acceptance of each medium

- **Television, in particular, is viewed as sensationalizing the events in the battle for ratings**
 - **The perception of TV's lack of responsibility is reinforced by coverage which is perceived as inaccurate, incomplete, and not reflective**
 - **Prolonged television coverage interrupts regular programming and unnecessarily impinges on their lives**
 - **It has the potential of making heroes out of criminals**
 - **It exploits the privacy and grief of affected families**
 - **It dramatizes the entertainment value of an event**

- **Print media fare far better in the judgement of Americans because they have their credentials**
 - **Newspapers offer more detailed information**
 - **News magazines offer more perspective**

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIGHTING TERRORISM

- **United States Government**
 - **Role of government is to keep us safe wherever we go: an historic obligation**
 - **Anything less is a threat to US position in the world and to the freedoms of the American people**

- **The President**
 - **Who else?**
 - **Recognize that many agencies and departments are involved: State, Defense, Trade, Advisors**

- **Government is responsible for Americans who are victims of terrorism, regardless of jurisdiction**
 - **Get them home safe**
 - **Keep families informed**
 - **No subsequent responsibility, especially not financial**

CURRENT US POLICY ON TERRORISM

- **There is none**
- **"We will not negotiate...(at least not directly)"**
- **Actions unsuccessful until Achille Lauro, but even then...**
- **We've never used Delta Force (what is Delta Force?)**

SOLUTIONS

Americans feel governments are virtually helpless when it comes to catching and identifying terrorists. Even so, they offer many types of solutions to preserve flexibility because they feel something should be done

- **Indirect, passive solutions are necessary, but are seen as difficult to execute and offer little help or protection**
 - **International cooperation among countries, including economic sanctions**
 - **Even tighter security at airports and on board aircraft**

- **Active measures are more controversial, and welcomed by many**
 - **Considered, moral action: -reluctance to spill first blood**
 - **Swift, effective, courageous action: results**
 - **Military action, first or last resort: willing to rationalize loss of innocent lives**
 - **Emotional abandonment of due process**

SOLUTIONS (Continued)

- **Danger: Retaliation, capture/imprisonment may cause more of the same. This is not like a real war: terrorists are fanatics/martyrs**

- **Ideal (and idealistic): Cure the disease rather than treat the symptoms**

CONCLUSIONS

Media

- **Americans want television coverage that is complete, accurate, and responsible**
 - **Be more reflective**
 - **Not undermine government's countermeasures (negotiation, forceful action)**
 - **Self-regulate**
 - **Not brutalize victims' families**
 - **Not glorify terrorists**
 - **Not overplay incidents**

- **Expectation is that media will not self-regulate because of ratings**

- **Censorship of media is abhorrent**
 - **First Amendment**
 - **Who decides; how far will censorship go?**

CONCLUSIONS (Continued)

Policy

Americans want a policy on terrorism that reflects national values: respect for individual life, respect for law, and no aggressive intervention in the affairs of foreign countries

- Terrorism must be stopped
- We will not give in
- We must protect innocent lives
- We must do whatever is necessary

CONCLUSIONS (Continued)

Actions

Under the umbrella of such a policy, Americans will welcome actions which are swift, proactive, and even aggressive. Although such actions may appear to be a contradiction of stated policy, Americans seem willing to accept them

- Given such a policy and its implementation into action, minimal loss of life would be accepted
- Americans understand that rescue missions will be bloody and messy
- Americans need to be made aware and reassured that our counterterrorist forces are highly trained and capable
- Decisive leadership is needed to justify each courageous action
 - Quietly mourn America's innocent victims of terrorism
 - Publicly honor the nation's warriors in the struggle against terrorism