



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

SYSTEM II
90808.

S/S-0
INCOMING

PAGE 01 OF 07 BEIRUT 04340 00 OF 02 240917Z C02/02 002175 NOD981
-----24/1611Z

INFO SSI-01 SS-01 /002 A5 GMT

S/S PASS NSC EO POINDEXTER VIA COURIER PER S/S. NPLATT. 7/24/85

-----24/1041Z

ACTION OFFICE MCTP-01

INFO SWO-01 SSO-01 SSS-01 SSI-01 SS-04 S-02 D-01 P-01 M-01

NEA-01 INR-01 CATB-01 /017 A5 RVH

REPEATED TO CIA - E.O. DCI - BY SWO

M/CTP: EYES ONLY BORG. NEA: EYES ONLY RAPHEL. INR: EYES ONLY ABRAMOWITZ:

RCM HAS SEEN

DIST AUTH BY

READ BY

DISTRIBUTED BY

EXSEC

DEPEXSEC

(S/S-1)

DATE/TIME

REPEATED TO

BY

DATE/TIME

SENSITIVE

THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT MAY BE SEEN ONLY BY THE ADDRESSEE AND, IF NOT EXPRESSLY PRECLUDED, BY THOSE OFFICIALS UNDER HIS AUTHORITY WHOM HE CONSIDERS TO HAVE A CLEAR-CUT "NEED TO KNOW." IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED, GIVEN ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION, OR DISCUSSED WITH NON-RECIPIENTS WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT.

ADDRESSEES OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SHOULD HANDLE THE DOCUMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS AND WITH CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTIONS ON NODIS.

WHEN THIS DOCUMENT IS NO LONGER NEEDED, THE RECIPIENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING ITS DESTRUCTION AND FOR MAILING A RECORD OF THAT DESTRUCTION TO THE DIRECTOR, S/S-1, ROOM 7241, TEL. 632-2976.

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State Guidelines, July 26, 1997

By

dlb

NARA, DOD

9/2/99

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

SYSTEM II
90808

S/S-O
INCOMING

PAGE 02 OF 07 BEIRUT 04340 00 OF 02 240917Z C02/02 002175 NOD981
ACTION NODS-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 /000 W

-----352644 240918Z /10 10

O 240841Z JUL 85 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4121

ROM HAS SEEN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BEIRUT 04340

NODIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PTER, LE

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH BARRI ON MISSING SEVEN

REFS: (A) STATE 206629, (B) BEIRUT 4023, (C) STATE
- 207988, (D) BEIRUT 4220

1. ~~C~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: CHARGE GOT THROUGH TO BARRI 23 JULY AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED REF A THAT HE AND AMAL NEED TO GET MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN ISSUE OF REMAINING SEVEN KIDNAPPED AMERICANS. BARRI HEARD POINTS OUT, SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE SEVEN, AND THEN PRESSED U.S. TO KEEP ITS "PROMISE" ABOUT THE RELEASE OF ATLIT PRISONERS. CHARGE REJECTED IDEA OF ANY PROMISES, COMMITMENTS, DEALS, OR LINKAGE. BARRI CONTINUED TO PRESS, HOWEVER, CONCLUDING WITH APPEAL TO PRESIDENT THAT IT IS U.S. "DUTY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW" TO HELP HIM ON QUESTION OF ATLIT PRISONERS. END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION.

3. CHARGE JULY 23 SPOKE WITH AMAL LEADER NABIH

DECLASSIFIED
797-10911 #12
DATE 2/6/03
BY CAS



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

S/S-0
INCOMING

PAGE 03 OF 07 BEIRUT 04340 00 OF 02 240917Z 002/02 002175 NOD981

BARRI TO MAKE POINTS CONTAINED REF A.

4. CHARGE TOLD BARRI THAT THE MISSING SEVEN AMERICAN HOSTAGES ARE NOW FAMOUS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT THE ISSUE OF THEIR RETURN IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND FOR THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION. HE TOLD BARRI THAT HIS NAME IS NOW ALSO FAMOUS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT HIS HELP IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF THE SEVEN; INDEED, BARRI'S HELP IS ESSENTIAL.

5. CHARGE TOLD BARRI THAT WE KNEW THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED FOR HIM, BUT THAT WE BELIEVED THAT OBTAINING THEIR RELEASE IS IN BARRI'S POLITICAL INTEREST AS WELL AS OURS, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE HOLDING THEM ARE A PROBLEM FOR HIM TOO AND ARE CHALLENGING HIS AUTHORITY.

6. CHARGE TOLD BARRI THAT WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE HOSTAGES HAD RECENTLY BEEN MOVED OUT OF THE BIOA' BACK TO WEST BEIRUT. BARRI INTERJECTED: "ARE YOU SURE?". CHARGE RESPONDED THAT WE HAD GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE SO. CHARGE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE HOSTAGES' FAMILIES, AND THE ADMINISTRATION KNOW THAT IF ANYONE CAN FIND AND RELEASE THEM IT IS AMAL UNDER BARRI.

7. CHARGE TOLD BARRI THAT WE WANT THE CAPTORS TO KNOW WE ARE WILLING TO TALK AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE TWA HIJACKING; WE CANNOT AGREE TO DEMANDS, BUT WE ARE WILLING TO TALK.

8. CHARGE SAID THAT SOME OF THE HOSTAGES HAVE NOW BEEN IN CAPTIVITY FOR MORE THAN 16 MONTHS;



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

S/S-O
INCOMING

PAGE 04 OF 07 BEIRUT 04340 00 OF 02 240917Z C02/02 002175 NOD981
THEY ARE SUFFERING AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE SUFFERING. HE NOTED THAT NONE OF THE SEVEN HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH THE DAWA PRISONERS. AND THAT WE BELIEVE THAT ALL WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO FIND AND LIBERATE THEM SHOULD ACT NOW.

9. CHARGE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT LAST WEEK HE HAD GIVEN A FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASKING FOR THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF THE HIJACKERS AND KILLERS. HE ASKED BARRI, AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, TO PURSUE THIS CONCERN.

10. BARRI RESPONDED THAT "FOR THE SEVEN AMERICANS, I HAVE DONE MY BEST. I WILL DO MY BEST IN THE FUTURE. YOU KNOW THAT I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THEM." BARRI NOTED THAT THE PROCUREUR GENERAL HAD ALREADY BEGUN WORK ON THE ISSUE OF PURSUING THE HIJACKERS AND KILLERS.

11. BARRI THEN RAISED THE RELEASE OF THE ATLIT PRISONERS SAYING "BUT NOW I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU. WHY DO YOU NOT HELP ME? YOU HELP YOURSELF, BUT YOU DO NOT HELP ME. I HAVE A PROMISE FROM THE U.S. THROUGH PRESIDENT ASSAD (ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THE ATLIT PRISONERS). THIS PROMISE IS NOT BEING KEPT; THIS IS NOT GOOD FOR YOU. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR ME."

12. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT BARRI KNEW FULL WELL FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR THAT

THE U.S. COULD NOT AND DID NOT MAKE ANY PROMISES, COMMITMENTS, DEALS, FOR THE RELEASE OF THE TWA

HOSTAGES. CHARGE SAID THAT IT WAS ALWAYS ISRAEL'S POLICY AND PLAN TO RELEASE THE ATLIT PRISONERS; AFTER THE HIJACKING WAS OVER. ISRAEL RESUMED THAT



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

S/S-0
INCOMING

PAGE 05 OF 07 BEIRUT 04340 00 OF 02 240917Z C02/02 002175 NOD981
POLICY AND HAS RELEASED 300. CHARGE SAID THAT IT
IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ISRAEL WILL COMPLETE THE
PROCESS OF RELEASING THE PRISONERS FOLLOWING ITS
OWN POLICY.

13. BARRI RESPONDED, "THAT KIND OF STUFF IS OKAY
FOR THE PEOPLE AND FOR PUBLIC OPINION. OKAY, IT IS
LIKE THAT. BUT UNDER THE TABLE WE HAVE A COMPROMISE.
IN ONE WEEK THE PRISONERS WERE TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED.
I ACCEPT A DELAY BECAUSE YOUR PRESIDENT IS SICK,
BUT YOU NOW HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT. YOU
HAVE TO HELP ME, YOU HAVE TO HELP EVERY HUMAN BEING,
IT IS NOT FAIR."

14. CHARGE REPEATED TO BARRI THAT HE KNEW FULL WELL
FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR THAT U.S.
CANNOT AND DID NOT MAKE A DEAL. U.S. DID NOT EVER
ACCEPT ANY LINKAGE.

15. BARRI RESPONDED, "RIGHT. MY DEAL WAS NOT WITH
YOUR EMBASSY OR WITH YOUR AMBASSADOR. MY DEAL WAS
WITH ASSAD AND WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN. I PLAYED A
BIG POKER GAME. IT IS THE FUTURE OF AMAL ON THE
GROUND THAT IS AT STAKE. I NEED HELP AND I NEED
AN ANSWER FROM YOU. I WILL WORK FOR THE RELEASE
OF THE SEVEN. BUT AT THE SAME TIME YOU MUST WORK
FOR ME."

16. CHARGE REITERATED AGAIN U.S. POLICY THAT THERE
HAD BEEN NO DEALS. NO COMMITMENTS. NO LINKAGE.

17. BARRI RESPONDED: "OKAY. OKAY. WILL YOU THEN
PASS A MESSAGE TO YOUR PRESIDENT? TELL HIM BARRI
SAYS OKAY. HE WILL HELP ABOUT THE SEVEN. BUT TELL
HIM THAT BARRI ASKS ABOUT THE 400 AT ATLIT. FORGET
THE HIJACKING. EVEN WITHOUT THE HIJACKING IT IS
YOUR DUTY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO HELP ME."



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of State

S/S-O
INCOMING

PAGE 06 OF 07 BEIRUT 04340 00 OF 02 240917Z C02/02 002175 NOD981

18. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD PASS ON BARRI'S MESSAGE. CHARGE NOTED BARRI'S EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO HELP ON THE RELEASE OF THE SEVEN AMERICANS. HE STRESSED AGAIN THAT AS BARRI KNEW FULL WELL FROM HIS MANY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR, THE U.S. COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT MAKE ANY DEAL OR COMMITMENT.

19. COMMENT: BY THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, BARRI APPEARED TO HAVE EVOLVED FROM CITING AN "UNDER THE TABLE" COMPROMISE TO CITING U.S. "DUTY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW," WITH A DOSE OF NEEDED AND "DESERVED" HELP FOR AMAL. AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USG TO PRODUCE THE ATLIT PRISONERS.

20. I CREDIT THE EVOLUTION NOT TO ANY CHANGE IN BARRI'S CONVICTION ABOUT THERE BEING A DEAL, BUT TO HIS HAVING BEEN HAMMERED SO HARD REPEATEDLY BY AMBASSADOR THAT NO DEAL OR LINKAGE WAS POSSIBLE THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT "U.S. COMMITMENT" APPROACH WAS SIMPLY NOT GOING TO GET HIM ANYWHERE HERE, AND THAT RECOURSE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HELP FOR AMAL WAS MORE PRACTICAL COURSE. I PRESUME THAT IN HIS HEART, HOWEVER, AND FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION WHEN HE GEARS UP, THEME OF USG COMMITMENT THROUGH ASSAD WILL DOMINATE.

21. HIS PLEA FOR HELP FOR AMAL STOOD OUT. FRANKLY, I DOUBTED THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH TO BARRI PERSONALLY. I FIGURED THAT THE DISCONTENT AT NOT SEEING ALL ATLIT PRISONERS RELEASED BY NOW WHICH CURRENTLY UNDERLIES ALL SYRIAN APPROACHES WOULD BE BURNING AT HIS GUTS TOO, AND WOULD RESULT IN HIM FOBGING ME OFF ON



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of State

S/S-0
INCOMING

PAGE 07 OF 07 BEIRUT 04340 00 OF 02 240917Z C02/02 002175 NOD981
A SUBORDINATE. FACT I GOT THROUGH AND TONE OF
HIS COMMENTS SUGGEST THAT HE MAY INDEED BE FEELING
PRESSURE FROM HIS SHIA COMPATRIOTS AND COMPETITORS
TO SHOW RESULTS FROM THE WHOLE EPISODE. END COMMENT.
LYNE