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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARN: PLDIBBLE

APPROVED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

RABAT-EYES ONLY FOR PELLETREAU, PARIS FOR DAVID WINN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PTER, LE, SY, FR

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR THE FRENCH C

1. ~~(S)~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS FOR DAS PELLETREAU'S USE
IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOF:

-- WE ARE WORKING INTENSIVELY TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF
THE MISSING AMERICANS IN LEBANON. WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE
WITH YOU THE STATUS OF OUR CURRENT EFFORTS.

-- THE MAIN FOCUS OF OUR EFFORTS REMAINS THE SYRIANS. WE
HAVE HAD REGULAR ACCESS TO FOREIGN MINISTER SHAR'A, AND

BY CAS NARA DATE 2/6/85
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WHILE OUR CONTACTS WITH HIGHER LEVELS IN THE LEADERSHIP HAVE NOT BEEN FREQUENT, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY KEEPS THEM WELL INFORMED ON THIS ISSUE.

-- WE HAVE EMPHASIZED TO THE SYRIANS THAT KIDNAPPING IS UNACCEPTABLE AND NOT IN THEIR OWN REGIONAL INTERESTS. IT UNDERMINES THE STABILITY THEY SEEK IN LEBANON AND DAMAGES THEIR OWN AND LEBANON'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION. WE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT ASAD IS PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE FOREIGN HOSTAGES AND THAT VICE PRESIDENT KHADDAM HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM AT THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTION.

-- IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT THE SYRIANS COULD DO MORE TO ATTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES BUT ARE CONSTRAINED BY OTHER INTERESTS, INCLUDING THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND A DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL LEBANESE FACTIONS.

-- WE ARE ALSO WORKING WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER INTERMEDIARIES WHO HAVE SHOWN AN ABILITY OR HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONTACT THE KIDNAPPERS.

-- WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHO IS HOLDING THE HOSTAGES NOR THEIR EXACT LOCATION. IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY ARE MOVED FREQUENTLY, INCLUDING POSSIBLE MOVES BETWEEN THE BIOA AND THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT.

-- THE ONLY DEMAND THAT WE HAVE VERIFIED IS THE RELEASE OF THE DAWA PRISONERS IN KUWAIT. IT APPEARS THAT THE CAPTORS ARE RELATED TO ONE OR MORE OF THE THREE LEBANESE THAT KUWAIT HOLDS.

-- THE KUWAITIS HAVE STOOD FIRM ON THIS ISSUE. AND WE HAVE NOT TRIED TO DISSUADE THEM. THEY HAVE DONE SO IN



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THE FACE OF THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THEIR EMIR,
THE BOMBING OF THE SEA FRONT CAFE, AND THE HIJACKING OF
THEIR AIRCRAFT.

-- WE DETECT NO SIGNS OF SOFTENING IN KUWAIT'S POSITION.
IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WILL NOT CARRY OUT ANY
DEATH PENALTIES.

-- WE WILL NOT, IN ANY CASE, MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS TO
OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF OUR CITIZENS. SUCH A COURSE WOULD
BE DISASTROUS. IT WOULD MAKE EVERY AMERICAN, EVERYWHERE,
VULNERABLE. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THIS PUBLICLY,
AND PRIVATELY TO THE SYRIANS. WE HAVE INDICATED THROUGH
VARIOUS INTERMEDIARIES, OUR WILLINGNESS TO TALK DIRECTLY
TO THOSE WHO MIGHT BE HOLDING THE KIDNAPEES, BUT HAVE HAD
NO RESPONSE. IF WE HAVE THE CHANCE WE WILL TELL THE
KIDNAPPERS DIRECTLY WHAT WE HAVE CONVEYED THROUGH
INTERMEDARIES: THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELFARE OF
THE CAPTIVES; THEY WILL GET NOTHING BY CONTINUING TO HOLD
THEM; IT WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME A PROBLEM FOR THEM IF IT
IS NOT ALREADY.

-- THIS WAS OUR APPROACH DURING THE TWA HIJACKING AS
WELL. THERE WAS NO LINKAGE, FORMAL OR INFORMAL, BETWEEN
THE RELEASE OF THE TWA PASSENGERS AND THE RELEASE OF
ATLIT DETAINEES.

-- WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT MOST KINDS OF PUBLICITY
RETARD EFFORTS TO LIBERATE THE HOSTAGES. PUBLICITY
DISCOURAGES CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARIES. AND IT CAN GIVE
THE KIDNAPPERS MOTIVATIONS FOR CONTINUING TO HOLD THEIR
CAPTIVES.

3. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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