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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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SIT029 TOR: 236/0509Z

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WHSR COMMENT: CHECKLIST

OF IMMED
STU5957

DE RUEHDT #1920 2360146
O 240146Z AUG 85
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9044

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 3162
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0220
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 4187
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 5124
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY 3562

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EXDIS

BANGKOK PLEASE PASS MARIE ECKSTEIN FOR AMBASSADOR WALTERS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, UNSC, LE
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH UNSYG ON HOSTAGES

REF: STATE 258976

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT).

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLS 797-10971 7/10/06
By CAC, NARA, Date 2/6/03

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EXDIS

2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] TOLD US AUG. 23 THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE SENDING HUMANITARIAN APPEALS NEXT WEEK TO ASSAD, GEMAYEL, KHOMENI AND INDIRECTLY TO NABIB BERRI ON BEHALF OF THE HOSTAGES IN LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

EXDIS

3. [REDACTED] HE TOLD US THAT SHORTLY AFTER SYG'S MEETING WITH THE HOSTAGE FAMILIES, UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL BRIAN UROUHART HAD DRAFTED MESSAGES FROM SYG TO PRESIDENTS ASSAD AND GEMAYEL, AYATOLLAH KHOMENI AND NABIB BERRI. THE MESSAGES TO THE TWO PRESIDENTS WERE TO BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE U.N. REP IN DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT, TO THE AYATOLLAH THROUGH THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE AND TO BERRI "INDIRECTLY" SO AS NOT TO RUFFLE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT'S FEATHERS. HOWEVER, RENEWED FIGHTING IN BEIRUT LAST WEEK AND SYG'S SUBSEQUENT CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE LED SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS TO DELAY THE TRANSMISSION OF MESSAGES DEALING WITH HOSTAGES SO AS NOT TO MIX THE TWO ISSUES.

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4. [REDACTED] SAID THE MESSAGES WOULD BE SENT AUG. 26 OR 27. THEY WILL BE ESSENTIALLY HUMANITARIAN APPEALS, REQUESTING EACH LEADER TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO HELP FREE THE HOSTAGES AND TAILORED TO THE PARTICULAR SENSITIVITIES OF EACH ADDRESSEE (I.E. EMPHASIZING THE POLITICAL ROLE OF SOME AND ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES FOR OTHERS).

5. [REDACTED] EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF SYRIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO MOVE AGAINST THE CAPTORS FOR FEAR OF THE WELFARE AND LIVES OF THE HOSTAGES AND FOR "THE OTHER POLITICAL COSTS INVOLVED." HE BELIEVED THAT THE CAPTORS WOULD NOT BUDGE

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UNTIL THE PRISONERS IN KUWAIT WERE SOMEHOW RELEASED. EXPANDING ON THE LATTER POINT, [REDACTED] RECOGNIZED THAT THE GOK WAS RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER ANY RELEASE AND THAT IT THEREFORE WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO BROACH THE IDEA AT THIS TIME WITH THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR HERE.

EXDIS

6. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE U.N. HAD ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH HEZBOLLAH, [REDACTED] SAID THAT DURING HIS LAST SWING THROUGH THE REGION HE HAD PLANNED TO MEET WITH SHEIK FADLALLAH ON BEHALF OF U.N. EMPLOYEE/U.K. NATIONAL [REDACTED] HE ULTIMATELY DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO HOLD THAT CARD UNTIL THE U.N.'S OTHER EFFORTS THROUGH SYRIA AND BERRI HAD RUN THEIR COURSE. HE BELIEVED THAT THE FRENCH HAD BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HEZBOLLAH.

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7. COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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8. BEIRUT MINIMIZE.

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