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November 25, 1985

CHRONOLOGYHIJACKING OF EGYPTIAN AIRLINER  
FLIGHT 648  
ATHENS TO CAIRO

(ALL TIMES EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1406	According to press reports Egyptian plane departed Athens.
1428	Press reports plane was hijacked by unknown number of hijackers claiming to be Egyptian revolutionaries.
1616	Plane arrived Malta.
1730	State NOIWON: Ambassador Veliotes told State that an Egypt Air Boeing 737 (Flight # MS-647) was hijacked today enroute from Athens to Cairo. The plane is on the ground in Malta as of 1716. There are 86 passengers on board and 10 crew members. FAA reports six Americans are on board. The number and nationality of the hijackers is unknown; Cairo speculates they are either Libyan or Syrian. There have been no demands. Informed Bohn, Teicher, Pearson, McDaniel, Latham, and Djerejian. Stark on page.
1830	U.S. Embassy in Valletta reports 2 wounded hostages aboard... hijackers asked for ambulance and technician for plane repairs... other demands unknown... will kill passengers if demands not met.
1932	State NOIWON reports 3 American citizens on plane, 90 passengers total... 6 crew (4 sky marshals), 17 greeks, 34 Egyptians, 2 Moroccans, 21 Filipinos, 2 Mexicans, 5 Europeans (NFI), 2 Australians, 1 Tunisian, 1 Ghanian, 2 Israelis. AMCITS: Patrick S. Baker, Scarlett M. Rogenkamp, Jackie N. Mink (Pflug). [REDACTED]

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DECLASSIFY ON: OADR

DECLASSIFIED IN PART

NLS F97-109/1#6By LOS, NARA, Date 4/25/08

2030 Charlie Allen advises hijackers are demanding fuel or more passengers will be killed. Maltese Interior Ministry talking to hijackers, who now say they will release some passengers if refueled...Libyan Ambassador in Malta demanding that plane be refueled.

2035 FAA/State reports that one of the 4 Egyptian sky marshalls was killed in a shoot out.

2045 TELCON with Admiral Poindexter: Egyptian Defense Minister asking all Nations who have passengers on the plane to pressure Maltese government. British forces not prepared, don't count on them. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] We will give diplomatic support to Egypt. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

2050 CNN reports 4 bodies on ramp...could be the three AMCITs plus the sky marshall.

2111 Charlie Allen reports that tower communications indicate 6 dead.

2120 Oakley-Poindexter telecon: 11 women hostages released (7 Filipino, 4 Egyptian.) Originally three hijackers; one killed in shoot out with air marshall; marshall also killed; two hijackers left...number and identity of dead not confirmed.

2142 [REDACTED]

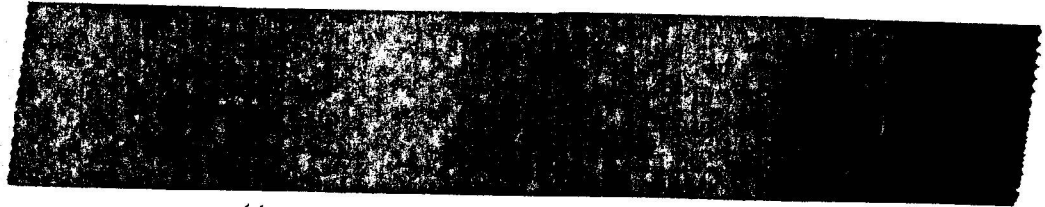
2200 [REDACTED]

2220 Allen reports Maltese government confirms six dead, identities still unknown... [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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2233



2255

Allen telcon: John McMahon wants to know if anyone has approached the Maltese about disabling aircraft; passed to Admiral Poindexter, then State Department.

2335


Allen telcon: Egyptian team to depart Cairo at midnight...Mubarak has asked for U.S. CAP support ...Weinberger approval for lethal ROE... Coral Sea will position four F-18s at Sigonella. Libyan Ambassador is in tower at Luqa.

2355

Admiral Poindexter called to say he had just talked to the President, who approved the lethal ROE.

November 24, 1985:

0026

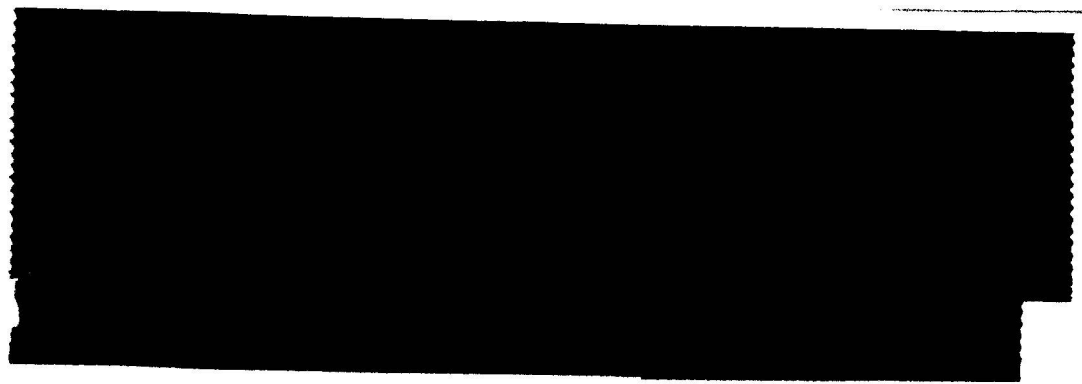
 hijackers are believed to be two Moroccans and one Tunisian listed on manifest.

0045

Egyptian C-130 due to depart at 0050; will fly directly to Malta....3 U.S. military to accompany, including MG Wiggin.

0100

0127



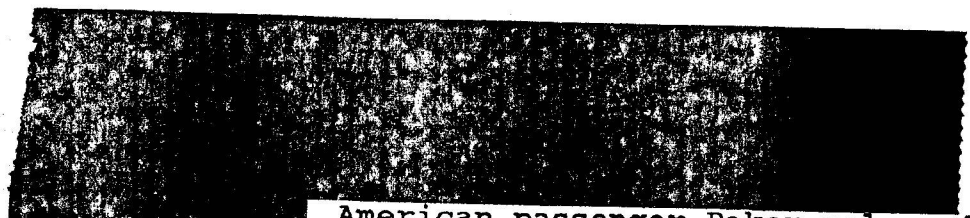
0207

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0237

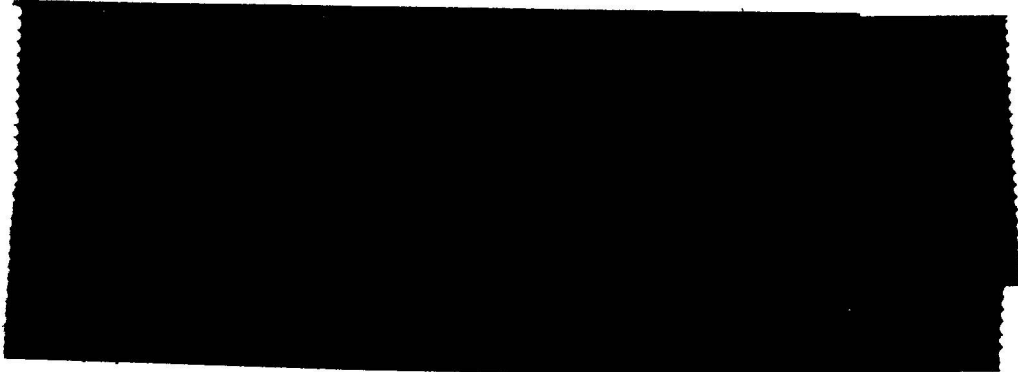


American passenger Baker released from hospital.

0242

Allen Telcon: Maltese claim to have slashed tires...US can't confirm plane disabled. US ambassador negotiating to get EUCOM helicopter carrying communications equipment into airport.

0250



0313

0332

Allen telcon: ETA for two Egyptian C-130s is 0400.

0339

Allen telcon: FAA reports Egyptian planes on ground at 0320...confirmation being sought. Two separate reports credit Maltese with disabling airliner...US cannot confirm.

0403

Allen telcon: Egyptian team on ground in Malta... hijackers have spotted them and told tower "we don't want any military plane near us or we'll blow the plane." Egyptian team is expected to begin action shortly.

0440

Egyptian commandos land at Malta.

0447

Allen telcon: Egyptian commando leader is talking with Maltese prime minister...discussing military options.

0540

Markowitz telcon: Malta has approved a joint Egyptian-Maltese plan to commence operations tonight (Malta time)...specifically rejects U.S. involvement...Hijackers have asked to speak to Algerian and Libyan ambassadors (there is no Algerian ambassador to Malta).

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0552 Ambassador Oakley called to confirm above information.

0615 Markowitz telcon: Maltese foreign minister and police chief assure that plane is disabled... Maltese SWAT and regular army have surrounded plane... officials are talking to hijackers... eight people have been taken from tarmac -- seven wounded, one dead.

0627 Markowitz telcon: Libyan ambassador is on the plane.

0627 Vice President called, received update from MKB.


0647 Markowitz telcon: Libyan ambassador is off the plane.

0705 Briefed Paul Thompson on situation.

0720 Mr. Regan called for update on situation.

0720 Markowitz telcon: PLO member is said to be assisting with negotiations in Malta.



0741 Markowitz telcon: Of the three Americans on the manifest, Baker and Mink were taken to the hospital wounded, and the third, Rogenkamp, has been killed.

0757 

0818 Stark and Teicher telephoned for update.

0900 Craig Fuller provided latest report.

0905 Paul Thompson called from aircraft. Latest situation report provided.

0915 Markowitz telcon:   
 aircraft is still mobile, tires have not been slashed. Maltese, however, do not intend to permit aircraft to depart.

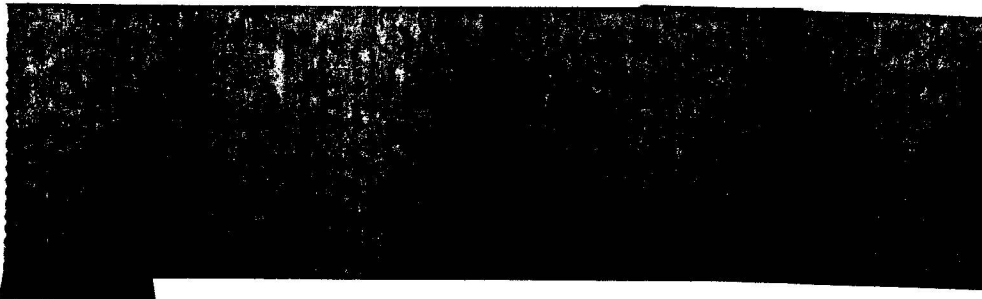
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0920 Djerejian called in and briefed on situation.

1005 Press reports indicate that Egypt has proclaimed a State of Emergency in the Western region along the Libyan border.

1021 

1030 Press guidance issued by State condemning the hijacking and offering all appropriate assistance to Egypt and Malta. State working group is almost certain that one American has died, and has notified the family. However, until dental records provide verification, press is not being informed. (Text of guidance sent to Mr. McFarlane's aircraft.)

1045 Markowitz telcon: Egyptians are planning to commence operation at 2030 local (1430 EST). Another body has been dumped from the aircraft. Israeli female (Lisa Mendehlson in hospital in serious condition. It appears that an American female -- Mink -- still on aircraft or unaccounted for. Passenger manifest reflected an American passenger originally gave name as "Pflug" then crossed out and given as Jackie Ann Mink. (See Athens 2034)

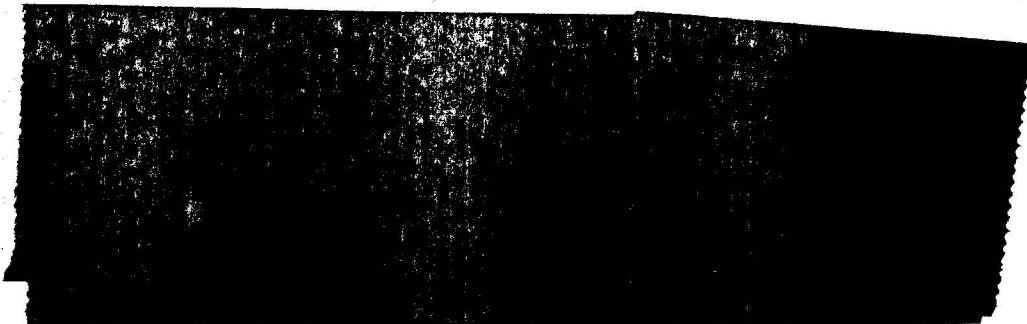
1145 Ambassador Oakley (in WHSR) reported that all Americans are now accounted for. Status: Scarlett M. Rogenkamp, killed, Jackie N. Mink wounded and in the hospital; Patrick S. Baker, wounded, treated at the hospital and released.

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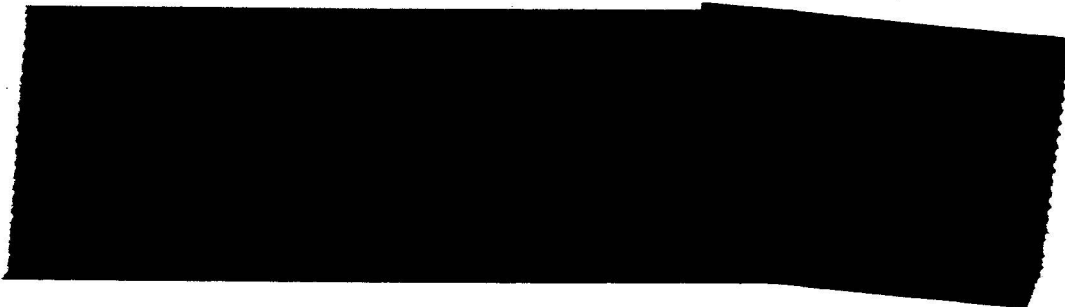
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1230



1253



1323



1441



EU  
COM  
reports that ambulances and police vehicles  
are seen removing casualties and passengers. No  
firm casualty report is available, but all firing  
ceased shortly after a side door on the aircraft  
was forcibly opened with explosives and the  
assault force entered the aircraft. (Passed to  
Mr. McFarlane's aircraft)

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- 1503 NOIWON convened by State Department to report hijacking was over. According to our DCM in Malta, several shots were fired. Unknown number of casualties.
- 1515 Charlie Allen telcon: 24 additional casualties reported, 12 serious. Initial reports indicate 2 hijackers on board, both were killed.
- 1515 Mr. McFarlane informed via secure phone of additional casualties. He will call the President.
- 1530 Mr. McFarlane informed the President of results of Egyptian assault. Following were briefed by the Situation Room: Poindexter, the Vice President, Mr. Regan, Larry Speakes, Bob Pearson, Ron Sable, Michael Guest (Press Duty Officer), David Chew, Don Fortier.
- 1625 Allen Telcon: Preliminary reports indicate 20 passengers killed during assault, many more injured, some seriously. Additional details will follow.
- 1630 Greek Foreign Ministry official says Greek investigation indicates weapons could not have entered plane with passengers...all passengers pass double security examinations before boarding.
- 1650 U.S. Ambassador Matthews reports that at least 50 passengers are dead, many from smoke inhalation. Terrorists blew up the front of the aircraft as the Egyptian assault team entered the aft section.
- 1745 Situation Room updated all parties with latest information on casualties.
- 1830 NSC proposed Press Statement on Egyptian operation drafted by North, Stark, and Teicher. Statement approved by Poindexter, Chew and Speakes.