

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 21, 1984

SECRET

SENSITIVE

ACTION

NOTED

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT: TIWG Meeting regarding Buckley Kidnapping

The TIWG convenes at 2:00 p.m. today in Room 208, OEOB to deliberate next steps in our efforts to rescue Beirut COS Bill Buckley. There is growing concern that this is not a team effort and that we could well be doing more. Our objectives for the meeting should be:

- To determine the current level of information and effort.
- To arrive at some consensus regarding what more (if anything) can be done.

The memo from Secretary Shultz to the President (Tab A) provides a summary of actions take to date. We should plan to forward this to the President after today's meeting. The agenda at Tab B covers each of the points relevant to the Buckley case. The agenda points us toward a posture that would be more responsive, should Buckley be found. Defense and State agree that we might have to react in a matter of hours. Our current disposition would preclude action by any forces other than the Marines offshore--who are not trained/equipped for the specialized tasks JSOC can perform.

There is resistance at JCS for moving to an Intermediate Staging Base (ISB). They believe that until we have a better fix on Buckley's location (Beirut, Damascus, Tehran, other) we should not degrade our response capability by pre-positioning forces in the wrong locale. JCS does support moving the rest of the Incident Response Team (IRT) [redacted] as soon as possible.

No one seems willing to move further on [redacted] Our earlier paper at Tab C elucidates. Your talking points at Tab I follow the agenda.

E.O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 3.3(b)(6)

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NLS M1391#11
105 NARA Date 6/8/07

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E. O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

Privately, you or Bud should take up with [REDACTED]/McMahon/Casey the counter-intelligence aspect of what Buckley knew--and could reveal under torture. This should be second nature to the Agency (it used to be), but may well not have been covered. We had to suggest to them the idea of interviewing [REDACTED] discern what he might be able to contribute--and this may also have slipped through the cracks. This issue should not be raised at the meeting since it is unlikely that either [REDACTED] Cogan would know.

RECOMMENDATION

That you use the talking points at Tab I during the meeting.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachments

- Tab I - Talking Points
- Tab A - Shultz Memo to the President
- Tab B - Agenda
- Tab C - North Memo to McFarlane (90345) of Mar 16

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S E N S I T I V E

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 20, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
From: George P. Shultz *gps*
Subject: U.S. Efforts in Response to the
Abduction of William Buckley

CIA Station Chief Bill Buckley was kidnapped in Beirut the morning of March 16. We are using every available diplomatic channel to encourage his safe and rapid return. We are also taking steps to prepare for a rescue operation should it prove necessary.

Within a few hours of Buckley's abduction, we had contacted all of the main Lebanese government officials and militia leaders who could be helpful, both in Beirut and in Lausanne, where the Lebanese reconciliation talks are underway. Reggie Bartholomew also called.

[REDACTED]

Reggie also instructed that all U.S. personnel be drawn inside the Embassy perimeter and that any personnel leaving the perimeter travel by car with a chauffeur and bodyguard.

We have also sought Syrian cooperation. Within a few hours of Buckley's abduction, we approached Foreign Ministry officials in Damascus requesting that all Syrian security checkpoints in Lebanon be on the lookout for Buckley. Shortly after, we also met with the chief aide to Syrian Vice President Rifa'at al-Assad. The aide said Syrian units in Beirut and at Damascus airport would be notified immediately and requested a photograph of Buckley which we later delivered.

On March 17, we renewed our approaches at the Syrian Foreign Ministry. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, our Embassy personnel in [REDACTED]

As Amended
Sec. 1.4(g)

E.O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4(g)
1.6(g)

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NLS M1391 #13

By *SM*, NARA, Date *11/18/05*

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S E N S I T I V E
DECL: OADR

Damascus have been monitoring all Iranian aircraft departures from Damascus airport to verify that Syrian officials are watching for Buckley. Moreover, our consular officer in Damascus has met Lebanese as well as Syrian security officers at the main Lebanese-Syrian border crossing to alert them to Buckley's abduction.

We do not have any firm evidence as to who is responsible for Buckley's kidnapping or where he is being held. The conflicting intelligence reports we have received suggest either the complicity of Iran or pro-Iranian factions.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] suggest that Buckley was kidnapped by supporters of the Dawa group which was responsible for the bombings in Kuwait last December. These sources believe Buckley is being held in order to provide a bargaining chip for release of the twelve Dawa defendants on trial in Kuwait for those bombings. We do not have any confirmation of these reports, however, and based on available evidence cannot judge if the reports are valid. If they are, the kidnappers should surface with demands within the next few days, because the trial in Kuwait is nearing its end and convictions as well as executions are expected.

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E.O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4(a) & 1.6(a)(1)

E.O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4(a) & 1.6(a)(1)

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NLS M/391 #14

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

By LJS, NARA, Date 6/8/07

TERRORIST INCIDENT WORKING GROUP (TIWG) MEETING

Wednesday, March 21, 1984

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Room 208, OEOB

E. O. 12958

As Amended

Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

AGENDA

- I. INTELLIGENCE [REDACTED]
Charles Cogan
 - A. New Information
 - B. [REDACTED]
 - C. [REDACTED]
- II. DIPLOMATIC SITUATION Amb Sayre
 - A. Contacts w/Regional Parties
 - B. Situation at Beirut Embassy
- III. MILITARY RESPONSE PREPARATIONS MGEN Rice
 - A. JSOC Response Time
 - B. Military Collection Assets
- IV. NEXT STEPS ADM Poindexter
 - A. Additional Collection Assets
 - 1. [REDACTED]
 - 2. U.S. Military
 - 3. Other Nations - [REDACTED]
 - B. Improving Response Posture
 - 1. Dispatch of Advisor to Bartholomew
 - 2. [REDACTED]
 - 3. Intermediate Staging Base Deployment
 - C. Improving Team Effort

E. O. 12958

As Amended

Sec. 3.3(b)(6)

John M. Poindexter

Distribution:

Don Gregg	VP Office	395-4213
Ambassador Robert Sayre	State	632-9892
Noel Koch	OSD	697-7728
MGEN Wesley Rice	JCS	695-5814
[REDACTED]	CIA	[REDACTED]
Donald Fortier/Oliver North	NSC	395-3345

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E. O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

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Chron
SYSTEM II
90345

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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March 16, 1984

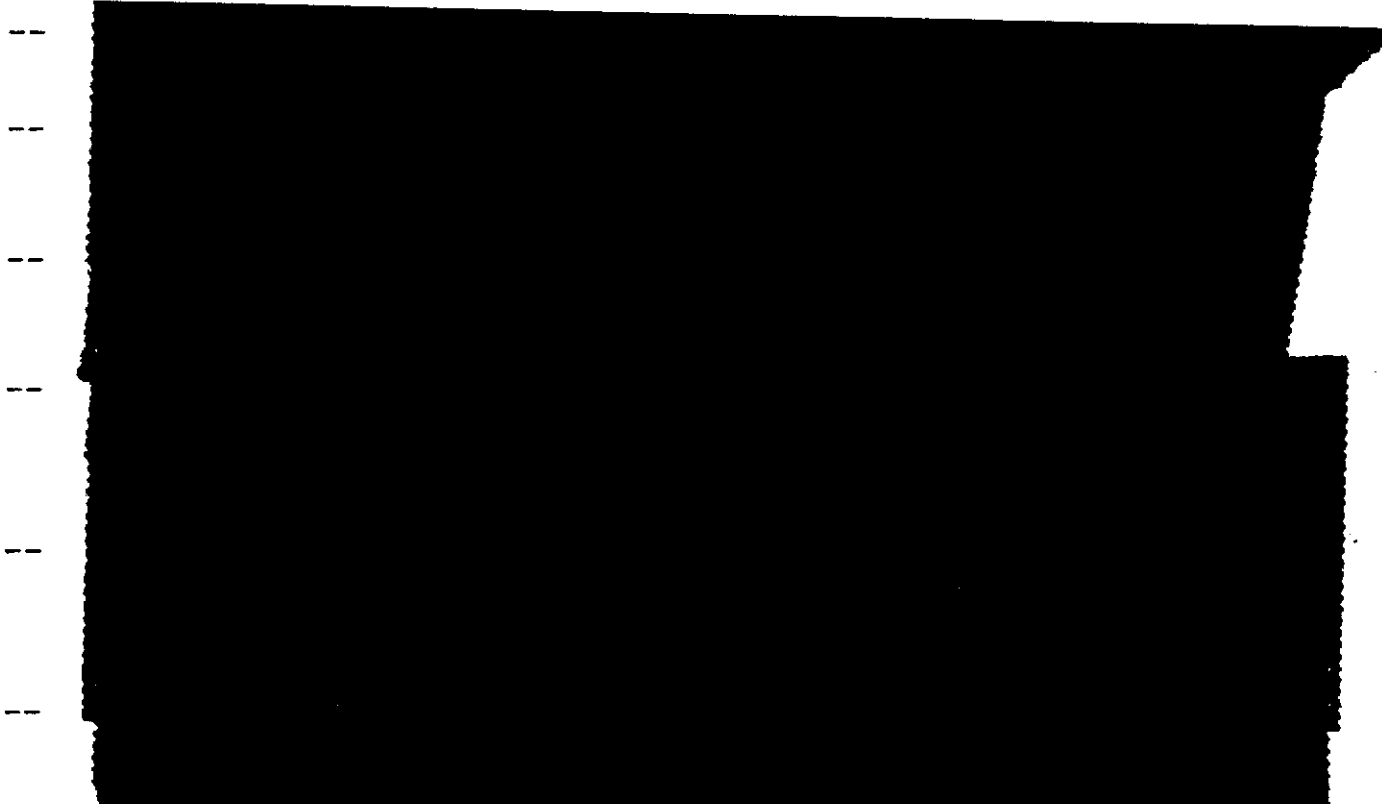
ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH
DONALD R. FORTIER
PHILIP A. DUR

SUBJECT: Beirut Kidnapping Follow-up

Based on the series of calls this morning, current plans are as follows:



At this point, it would seem prudent to call a Terrorist Incident Working Group (TIWG) meeting in the WHSR this afternoon. Participants should be: Eagleburger and Sayre (State), McMahon (CIA), ADM Moreau and MGEN Rice (JCS), and Taft or Armitage (who will be back in Washington by 5:00 p.m.) (DOD).

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NLS F98-042 #127
By LOT, NARA, Date 5/28/03

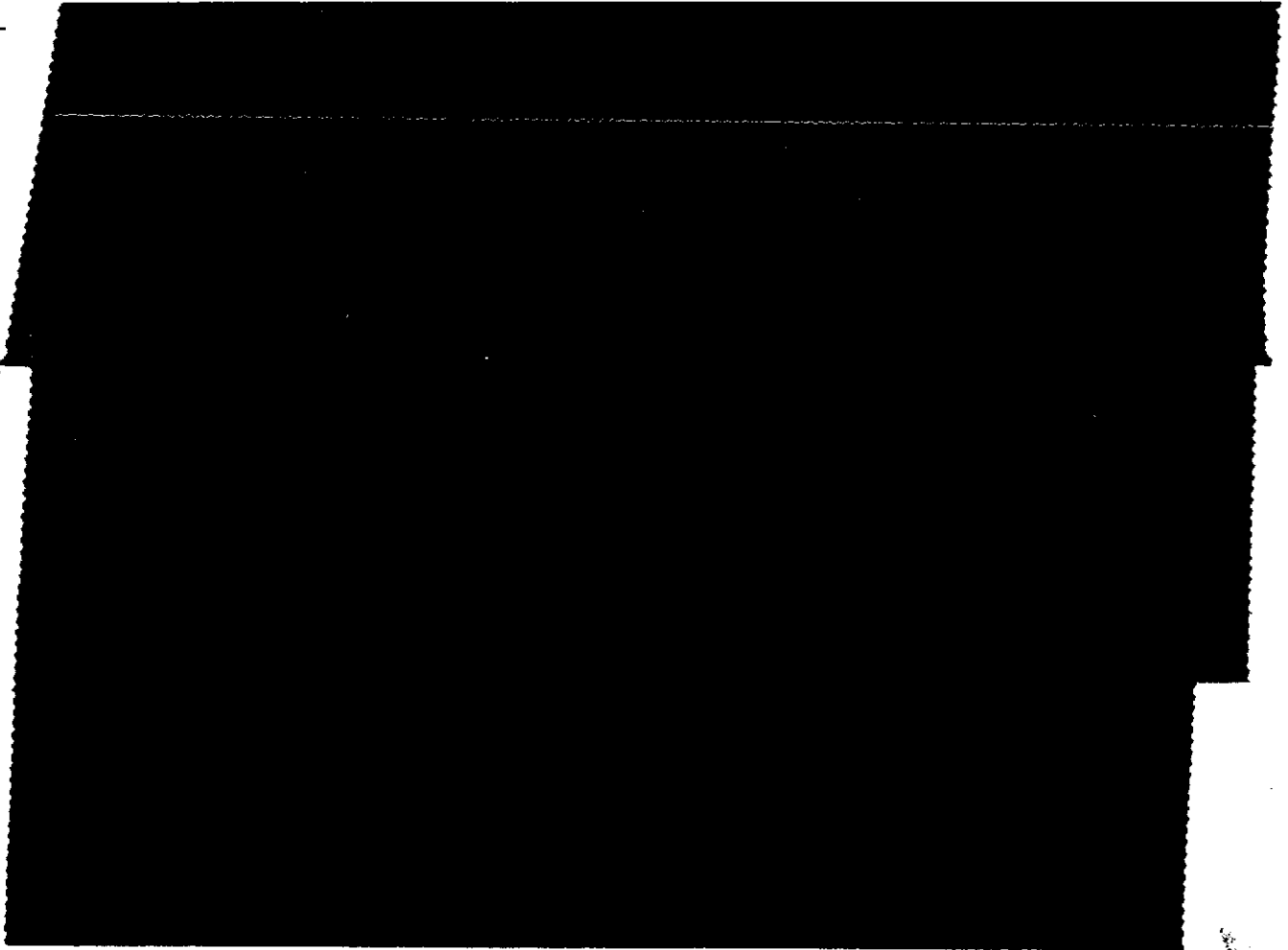
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There are two immediate issues which should be resolved before planning proceeds much further:

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RECOMMENDATION

That you convene a TIWG meeting in the WHSR this afternoon to be chaired by either yourself or Don Fortier.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

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A tasking has been levied on the community to press ahead on these matters. [REDACTED]

E. O. 12958
As Amended
Sec. 1.4c

[REDACTED] The TIWG will reconvene to weigh our options as new information develops and we will keep you apprised.

Recommendation

OK



No

That you review the memos at Tabs A and B.

Attachments

- E. O. 12958 Tab A - Secretary Shultz' Memo of March 20, 1984
- As Amended Tab B - [REDACTED] Memo to McFarlane of March 20, 1984
- Sec. 1.4c

cc Vice President

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