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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

January 14, 1986

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

SIGNED

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT: Meeting with Hostage Families

Attached at Tab I is a memo from you to the Vice President recommending that he agree to a meeting with the Lebanon hostage families on January 21, 1986. As indicated in the State memo at Tab II, they will be in Washington on January 20-21 and have formally requested two meetings -- one with the Vice President and another with yourself and Ambassador Bob Oakley.

The Vice President's meeting would be brief and largely ceremonial, serving as an opportunity for Peggy Say (sister of Terry Anderson) to pass a yellow ribbon with approximately 10,000-12,000 signatures commemorating the hostages to the Vice President. (Note: This a change from the State memo at Tab II which indicates that Eric Jacobsen will pass a recorded song to the Vice President.)

The State Department's new program for providing near day-to-day contact has helped to relieve many of the anxieties previously expressed by the families and their anomosity towards the Administration and our efforts. Obviously the families remain unhappy with the situation, and the probable release of the French hostages could significantly increase their frustrations once again. The exchange made by the French of Iranian prisoners for the French hostages will not be well received in light of our refusal to approach the Kuwait on release of the Da'wa prisoners. Your meeting with Amb Oakley and the families will serve as an update and help to ease tensions when news of the French hostage release comes.

Talking points have been prepared for you (Tab III) and the Vice President (Tab A). Please note that Charlie Allen should attend this meeting

[REDACTED] State (Amb Borg) agrees that Charlie should attend. Clearance lists will be forwarded once attendees (family members) are confirmed.

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NLS #1241#117  
By LOS, NARA, Date 7/31/06

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That you sign and forward the memo at Tab I with Tab A attached.

Approve



Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

2. That you choose a time when you and Amb. Oakley can meet with the families and review the talking points attached at Tab III prior to the meeting.

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

- Tab I - Poindexter Memo to the Vice President
- Tab A - Talking Points for the Vice President
- Tab II - Platt Memo to Poindexter of January 13, 1986
- Tab III - JMP Talking Points

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January 13, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN M. POINDEXTER  
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Appointments with Hostages Families

We are informed that members of the Lebanon hostage families are planning to be in Washington on January 20-21. Since January 20 is a government holiday, the Department is facilitating appointments with Chiefs of Mission of Lebanon, Syria and Algeria for the families. On January 21, the families have expressed the desire to have two meetings at the White House, one with the Vice President and one with you with Ambassador Oakley in attendance.

The meeting with the Vice President would be very brief and ceremonial, essentially a photo opportunity. One of the family members, Eric Jacobsen, has recorded a song commemorating the hostages and wants to give it to the Vice President. The families hope that proceeds from the sale of the record can help defray the costs being incurred by them as a result of the hostage situation.

As you know, the French hostages are expected to be released at any time. Part of the terms, exchanging them for Iranian prisoners convicted in an assassination attempt in Paris, are counter to our policies and are almost certain to increase the frustrations of our hostage families over the USG refusal to approach Kuwait on release of the Da'wa prisoners. The meeting with you and Oakley is for an update, and there will no doubt be unhappiness, but the families do not appear to have an ax to grind as they have had in the past. The State Department has been in almost daily contact with each family. Because of these factors, the State Department supports scheduling both meetings.

*Nicholas Platt*  
Nicholas Platt  
Executive Secretary

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TALKING POINTS FOR JOHN POINDEXTER

MEETING WITH THE LEBABON HOSTAGE FAMILIES

- Welcome this opportunity to meet with you again. This time in my new capacity.
- I want to assure you that the departure of Bud McFarlane has in no way changed the emphasis that we place on the safe return of your loved ones.
- Since your last meeting with the President on October 28, we have taken several steps to improve our efforts:
  - We now have a 24-hour a day Task Force dedicated to this endeavor. Charlie Allen of the State Department heads this team and has our full confidence.
  - The State Department has reorganized its family contact office which is intended to maintain closer coordination and communication with you.
  - We have had several very private meetings with the Archbishop of Canterbury's emissary, Terry Waite, and representatives of the Catholic Church in order to provide whatever discreet support we can to their efforts.
  - We have intensified our diplomatic efforts with those who have influence in the area -- both countries and organizations. The International Red Cross (IRC) and the Secretary General of the United Nations have both privately been trying to help.
- I know that the burden is heavy, but we remain hopeful that your loved ones will soon be returned.

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BY LDT NARA, DATE 7/31/06

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