

NSJWD

-----  
DISTRIBUTION:

NSPWR \*NOMAIL\* NODIS BEIRUT LEBANON SYRIA  
 NSDBR BEIRUT LEBANON SYRIA  
 NSWJB BEIRUT LEBANON SYRIA  
 NSBTM TERROR  
 NSCLP NODIS  
 NSGLM TERROR  
 NSJAM PRESIDENTIAL  
 NSJD UK  
 NSMEN MEDIA  
 NSPLS IMPORT  
 NSWHC NODIS

*1. Fritz / Nelson*  
*2. Free UK*

IMMEDIATE

NODIST

DTG: 081540Z JUL 87

SIT: EOB WHSR\_OUT VAX

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

8517

SECRET

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER

\*\*\* START OF TEXT \*\*\*

BT

~~SECRET~~ STATE 208517

NODIS

FOLLOWING STATE 208517 DTG 08 JUL 87 SENT ACTION  
 LONDON BEING REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE ~~SECRET~~ STATE 208517

NODIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL PTER UK SY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER

1. ~~S~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER THE LETTER BELOW FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL FOLLOW BY POUCH.
3. TEXT OF LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER THATCHER

BEGIN TEXT

JULY 7, 1987

DEAR MARGARET:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR JUNE 26 LETTER. FIRST, LET ME SAY THAT I WAS DISMAYED THAT MY LETTER TO ASSAD AND THE PLAN TO SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY TO DAMASCUS WERE LEAKED TO THE NEWS MEDIA HERE. I REGRET THAT NEWS OF THE LETTER AND ENVOY CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR YOU BEFORE THE EC MEETING. I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT WE HAVE REACHED AN AGREED ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RECENT MOVES BY

DECLASSIFIED  
 BY DL NARA DATE 2/25/08  
 NLR # 10135  
114/8

PRESIDENT ASSAD AGAINST THE ABU NIDAL ORGANIZATION.  
ALSO, WE ARE, I BELIEVE, IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT THAT ANY  
APPROACH TOWARDS SYRIA SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS, DELIBERATE  
AND STEP-BY-STEP.

WE SEE VALUE IN PRESSURING ASSAD TO TAKE ADDITIONAL  
ACTION AGAINST ABU NIDAL AND TO ABANDON HIS SUPPORT OF  
TERRORISTS. BESIDES ABU NIDAL THERE ARE ADDITIONAL  
AREAS WHERE WE THINK ASSAD SHOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE  
MEASURES, E.G. AGAINST HIZBOLLAH AND IN CONTROLLING  
BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ASSAD HAS THE MEANS TO  
TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS AND WE WILL PRESS HIM TO DO SO,  
MAKING IT CLEAR THAT A FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN OUR  
BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL DEPEND ON HIS TAKING CONCRETE  
ACTION.

THE ACTION HE TOOK AGAINST ABU NIDAL WAS THE FIRST  
STEP. SYRIA CAN ALSO CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO RESTORING  
ORDER IN LEBANON, TO MAKING A VIABLE PEACE PROCESS  
POSSIBLE, AND TO AFFECTING THE SHAPE OF THE IRAN-IRAQ  
WAR BY DISTANCING ITSELF FROM IRAN. WITHOUT ILLUSIONS  
OR A FALSE SET OF EXPECTATIONS, WE'RE PREPARED TO TEST  
ASSAD.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH YOU ON ASSAD'S  
RESPONSES AND ON USEFUL NEXT STEPS FOLLOWING GENERAL  
WALTERS' VISIT. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT GENERAL WALTERS  
WILL FOLLOW THE DELIBERATE, STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH THAT  
YOU AND I ADVOCATE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AND DISCUSSING THE RESULTS  
OF OUR APPROACH TO SYRIA IN MORE DEPTH LATER THIS MONTH.  
SINCERELY,

RON

END TEXT. SHULTZ UNQUOTE SHULTZ

BT

#8517

SECTION: 01 OF 01

\*\* END OF TEXT \*\*