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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

July 30, 1985

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ACTION

RCM HAS SEEN

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Hostage Families

You are scheduled to meet tomorrow, July 31, from 1:30-2:00 p.m. in Room 208, OEOB, with the families of four of our Beirut hostages. Amb Bob Oakley and I met with these families at a Congressional session this afternoon in the Rayburn Building (sponsored by Congressmen Dymally and Dornan). The family members (Weirs, Jacobsens, Jencos, and Andersons) expressed the following concerns:

- disappointment that the Administration had not insisted that their relatives be released concurrently with the TWA hostages;
- disappointment that the Administration has not given release of the seven a high enough priority or public profile;
- the desire for more communication with Administration officials on efforts that are being made to achieve release; and
- the very strong belief that the U.S. should pressure the Kuwaitis to release the Dawa convicts in order to secure the release of their family members.

The hostage families had requested a meeting with the Vice President. Unfortunately, his scheduled could not be changed to accommodate the meeting.

The Weir family requested a meeting with the President in March 1985. Since Terry Anderson's kidnapping the same month, his sister, Peggy Say, has repeatedly expressed interest in meeting with the President. The frequency of her requests increased once the TWA 847 hijacking ended. She is very disappointed that she has had no communication from the White House. Despite the complaints of several of the families, there have been numerous contacts by senior Administration officials with the families.

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Members of the Jenco family were included in the President's June meeting in Illinois with relatives of the hijack victims. On July 26, a member of the Jacobsen family telephoned the Department of State to ask if a meeting of the families with the President would be possible. Members of the Buckley, Kilburn, and Sutherland families have not made a specific request for a meeting with the President but we believe that they would be pleased by an invitation.

The President has already demonstrated his personal concern, not only in public remarks but also in Christmas messages he sent to the families of the Americans held captive at that point: Buckley, Levin (who is no longer being held), Weir, and Kilburn. Other than the June meeting with the Jencos, there has been no White House communication with the families of the four who were kidnapped after Christmas (Anderson, Jacobsen, Jenco, and Sutherland).

During your meeting, Bob and I recommend that you use the talking points at Tab I. Hostage and family biographies are attached at Tab II.

The underlining problem appears to be the sharp contrast between the highly visible Congressional, media, and Administration attention given to the TWA hostages and their families and that of the much less visible attention being given to the seven hostages still held and their families. There also seems to be as much irritation at the lack of interest by the media and the Congress as there was at the alleged low priority given this issue by the Administration. Finally, the families expressed considerable concern over the modalities of continued contact with the State Department and the fact that the TWA task force was not "continued" after the hijacking was resolved. To both of these issues we responded that State would try to do better on family contact and that task forces are convened when the volume of information so warrants.

Bob Oakley should attend your meeting to demonstrate Administration solidarity. A final list of attendees will be forwarded prior to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That you use the points above and the attachments during your meeting.

Approve y

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I - Talking Points

Tab II - Hostage and Family Biographies

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Talking Points

1. Thank you for coming here today to meet with me. I understand that you had a useful and productive meeting with members of Congress on Tuesday.
2. I assure you that the plight of the seven hostages in Lebanon is of great concern to the President, myself and a large number of officials in our government.
3. The long period of time which has elapsed since your relatives' kidnapping has been a difficult ordeal for you and very frustrating for all of us.
4. The lack of visible progress toward the release of the seven Americans in no way reflects an absence of effort on our part. Our efforts to secure the release of the kidnap victims have been unremitting since the first kidnapping occurred.
6. These efforts include official and unofficial overtures and communications with any and all parties which may be in a position to influence their release.
7. We have been frustrated by the unwillingness of the captors to enter into any meaningful dialogue.
8. While we are unwilling to capitulate to terrorist blackmail, we will continue to pursue any reasonable avenues toward the hostages' release.
9. We believe, however, that this can best be accomplished in the quietest way possible. We remain convinced that excessive publicity will lessen rather than increase the chances of success, and will inevitably be exploited by the captors for their own political purposes.
10. We appreciate your cooperation and we will continue to work closely with you.

NAME :

Terry Anderson

AGE :

37

HOMETOWN :

born in Lorain, Ohio;
raised in Batavia, N.Y.

OCCUPATION :

Journalist

FAMILY :

father: Glen R. Anderson,
Sr.; resides in Florida
sister: Peggy Say; resides
in Batavia, N.Y. sister:
Judith Blouin; resides in
East Bethany, N.Y. brother:
Glen R. Anderson, Jr.
(Rich); lives in Florida
brother: J.D. Anderson
(Jack); lives in Ocala,
Florida Peggy Say was among
family members of Americans
kidnapped in Lebanon who met
with Under Secretary
Armacost on May 22, 1985.
He assured the families
of the President's personal
concern.

COMMENTS :

Kidnapped March 16, 1985.
Letter written by him passed
to family in April. Mr.
Anderson's wife and 8 year
old daughter currently live
in Japan. His Lebanese,
female companion and their
infant daughter (born June
7, 1985) are staying with
Ms. Say.

MEDIA CONTACT :

Frequent. Peggy Say has
been on network programs on
numerous occasions. Ms. Say
has been in touch with
Reverend Jesse Jackson, as
well as with members of
families of other American
kidnap victims.

TRAVEL PURPOSE:

Was working in Beirut as
Bureau Chief of Associated
Press

Name : David Philip Jacobsen
Age : 54
Hometown : Huntington Beach, Ca.
Occupation : Hospital administrator
Family : sons: Eric and Paul; daughter
Diane -- all live in California
Comments : Kidnapped on May 28, 1985.
Is divorced from Sarah Jacobsen.
Family has been in touch with
members of families of other
kidnapped Americans.
Media contact : Media has contacted Eric and
possibly other family members.
Travel purpose: Arrived in Lebanon in December,
1984 to work as director
(administrator) of American
University Hospital.

NAME : Father Lawrence Jenco
AGE : 50 ✓
HOMETOWN : Joliet, Illinois
OCCUPATION : Roman Catholic Priest belonging to the order of Servite Fathers.
FAMILY : John (Jack) Jenco - brother (family's primary spokesman)
Joseph (Joe) Jenco - brother
Sue and Ed Franceschini - sister and brother-in-law
Mae Mihelich - sister
Andrew (Andy) Mihelich - nephew (Mae Mihelich's son)
Kathy (Kay) Mihelich - niece (Mae Mihelich's daughter)
Sue Castagnoli - niece (Mae Mihelich's daughter)

Approximately a dozen members of the Jenco family met with Deputy Secretary Dam on March 18.

Father Jenco's sister Mrs. Mae Mihelich, and his sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Ed Franceschini, were among the family members of Americans kidnapped in Lebanon who met with Under Secretary Armacost on May 22, 1985. The Under Secretary assured the families of the President's personal concern.

COMMENTS : Father Jenco was kidnapped in West Beirut on January 8, 1985. In March and April the family received letter from Father Jenco which his abductors allowed to be sent to the family.

MEDIA CONTACT : Father Jenco's large Polish-American family in Joliet, Illinois has been among the most active of the kidnap victims' families from the start. Their relationship with the media has been close, and they have also been in touch with Jesse Jackson as a possible intermediary to effect Father Jenco's release. They are also in touch with the families of other Americans kidnapped in Lebanon.

TRAVEL PURPOSE: Director for Catholic Relief Services in Lebanon which has done relief work among all of Lebanon's confessional communities.

NAME : Peter C. Kilburn
AGE : 60
HOMETOWN : born in San Francisco, Ca.
OCCUPATION : Librarian
FAMILY : brother in Tahiti; nieces and nephew in California (Tami Fox, Patty Little, and Tim Kilburn)
COMMENTS : Kidnapped sometime between November 30 and December 3, 1984. Letters written by his relatives to be passed to him through intermediaries were declared "undeliverable". His family has had minimal contact with families of other kidnapped Americans. ✓
MEDIA CONTACT : Unknown
TRAVEL PURPOSE: Was employed at the American University of Beirut as a librarian.

*Killed in Apr. '86,
murder in retaliation for
Libya bombing.*

NAME : Thomas McNee Sutherland ✓
AGE : 54
HOMETOWN : Fort Collins, Colorado
OCCUPATION : Educator
FAMILY : Wife: Jean (Estes Park, Colo.)
Daughter: Kit (Colorado)
COMMENTS : Kidnapped June 9, 1985. Mrs.
Sutherland has been contacted
by families of other kidnapped
Americans.
MEDIA CONTACT : Mrs. Sutherland said that she has
been contacted by the press. She
has not, to our knowledge,
initiated contact with media
herself.
TRAVEL PURPOSE: Went to Lebanon in 1983 to be
Dean of the School of Agriculture
at American University of Beirut.

✓

NAME : Benjamin Weir

AGE : 61

HOMETOWN : Beirut, since 1953

OCCUPATION : Presbyterian minister/missionary

FAMILY : Wife Carol and son John currently
in New York.
Daughter Susan lives in
California.
Two other daughters live abroad.
Son John was among the family
members of Americans kidnapped
in Lebanon who met with Under
Secretary Armacost on May 22,
1985. He reassured them of the
President's personal concern.

COMMENTS : Kidnapped May 8, 1984. Letters
written by Rev. Weir to his
family were received in March
and April. Mrs. Weir has been
interviewed by the media on
numerous occasions. She has
been in touch with Reverend
Jesse Jackson, as well as with
families of other American kidnap
victims.

MEDIA CONTACT : repeated

TRAVEL PURPOSE: Lived and worked for Presbyterian
Church in Lebanon since 1953.

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July 30, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSESUBJECT: Request for a White House Meeting with Relatives of
the Seven Americans Kidnapped in Lebanon

Families of the U.S. citizens kidnapped in Lebanon were disappointed that their relatives were not released concurrently with the Americans hijacked on TWA 847, or soon afterward. Some of them want reassurance from the White House that their relatives have not been "forgotten."

The Weir family requested a meeting with the President in March, 1985. Since Terry Anderson's kidnapping the same month, his sister Peggy Say has repeatedly expressed interest in meeting with the President. The frequency of her requests increased once the TWA 847 hijacking ended. She is very disappointed that she has had no communication from the White House.

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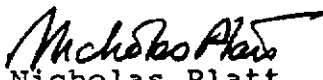
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The Weirs met with Secretary Shultz on March 22. Members of the Jenco family met with then Acting Secretary Dam on March 18. In addition, members of the Weir, Jenco, and Anderson families met with Under Secretary Armacost on May 22.

A White House meeting, with the Vice President, the National Security Advisor or another official at an appropriate level, might put to rest the Weir, Anderson and Jacobsen families' requests for a meeting with the President, at least temporarily. The only possible drawback foreseen is that such a meeting may draw further attention to a problem which remains to be solved. On the other hand, lack of a positive response to the families' requests for a White House meeting could increase the families' concern about their relatives being "forgotten."

We understand that it might be possible to set up a meeting on August 1. Members of the Anderson, Jacobsen, Jenco and Weir families are in Washington and will remain until August 1 if a meeting can be arranged on that date.


Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

Attachment:
Background information on the families

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