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SUBJECT: Talking Points for DCI Telephone Interview on
26 August 1988 with the Christian Science Monitor

LESSONS LEARNED:

--Extensive U.S. efforts to locate and apprehend known terrorists--such as Fawaz Yunis--have sent a powerful message to terrorists. They cannot travel without fear that they might be caught and brought to justice.

--Governments must respond to terrorist actions with firmness. Concessions of any kind--including paying ransom, releasing convicted terrorists from prison, or changing policies to accommodate terrorist demands--only encourage more terrorism.

--Cooperative agreements made by foreign governments with terrorist groups (e.g., allowing terrorists to operate in their country in return for promises not to conduct attacks in their country or against their interests) are ineffective counterterrorist measures. Sooner or later the terrorist group will break the cooperative agreement--either out of maliciousness, or because the group's operating realities, missions, and goals change.

--State sponsors of terrorism must be made to pay a price for their actions--ranging from the April 1986 bombing raids on terrorist support facilities in Libya to political, diplomatic, and economic measures, public diplomacy, and sanctions.

--A counterterrorist program must depend on practical measures. Measures implemented currently include those designed to bring terrorists to justice, to disrupt their operations, and to destroy their networks. Increased cooperation with friendly liaison services and foreign law enforcement agencies has led to increasing success in identifying, tracking, apprehending, prosecuting, and punishing terrorists.

--A multi-disciplinary approach must be employed to ensure success in counterterrorist efforts. Close coordination is required among senior policymakers and law enforcement and intelligence officials.

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--Despite improved international counterterrorist programs, the level of terrorist activity is likely to remain high as terrorist organizations have demonstrated resiliency and an ability to adapt to improved counterterrorist measures. Moreover, enhanced security awareness and counterterrorism measures in the west have caused terrorists to look for less hostile environments in which to conduct their activities.

--Counterterrorist programs are critical to the physical security of our citizens. However, in our war against terrorism the Agency and other U.S. Government agencies carry out their responsibilities in accordance with specific laws and we operate under internal procedures approved by the Attorney General. In addition, the Agency's Office of the General Counsel ensures that Agency employees who deal with counterterrorist issues know and comply with our laws and procedures. We also work closely with the Department of Justice on those types of activities that may require Attorney General authorization.

THE COUNTERTERRORIST RESPONSE:

--CIA, cooperating with other intelligence and law enforcement organizations in accordance with the National Security Act of 1947, has collected valuable information about terrorist groups. The Agency provides close intelligence and operations support to the U.S. counterterrorism community and interacts daily with the core group of senior U.S. officials responsible for terrorism policy represented by the National Security Council, Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Defense.

--The Agency also uses its resources to track the movements of wanted terrorists. If our Government has an outstanding warrant for the arrest of such individuals, the Agency provides information to judicial authorities to assist them in locating and apprehending the terrorist. In some cases--as in that of Fawaz Yunis, wanted in the U.S. for the June

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1985 hijacking of a Jordanian airliner which carried U.S. citizens, our information enabled the FBI to arrest Yunis in the Mediterranean. In other cases, our government may request extradition of terrorists arrested by foreign governments.

--Stronger cooperation with other countries has been a key element of our counterterrorist efforts. We share information with foreign governments on names of suspected terrorists, aliases they use, travel plans and information on false documentation. This allows foreign governments to add these terrorists to their watchlists. In several cases this has enabled foreign governments to arrest known or suspected terrorists. This kind of information has also been used to deny entry and safehaven to known terrorists and their associates.

THE TERRORIST THREAT:

--The level of international terrorist activity worldwide continues to rise with almost 50 percent of the incidents originating from the Middle East, largely involving radical Palestinian or radical Shia groups. U.S. interests are at particular risk:

a. Nine U.S. citizens and one resident alien remain hostage in Beirut, held by radical Shia elements.

b. The Greek terrorist Group "17 November" has accelerated its terrorist campaign against U.S. interests in Greece, most recently assassinating our Defense Attache in Athens.

c. Japanese Red Army terrorists have attacked official U.S. facilities on several occasions over the past three years.

d. State sponsorship of international terrorism remains a persistent problem, despite efforts by such states--notably Afghanistan, Iran and Libya--to hide their role by use of surrogate groups. Libya may have provided

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encouragement and financial support for a series of anti-U.S. attacks in Latin America and Europe that coincided with the April anniversary of the U.S. raids on Tripoli.

e. The Summer Olympics in Seoul and the International Monetary Fund Conference in West Berlin, both in September, are potential targets for international terrorist activity, although impressive security measures are being taken.

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