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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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April 24, 1987 *USA FILE WH*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ *EXCPT #*
The Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE JAMES A. BAKER III
The Secretary of the Treasury

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

THE HONORABLE EDWIN MEESE III
The Attorney General

THE HONORABLE JAMES C. MILLER III
The Director, Office of Management
and Budget

THE HONORABLE ROBERT GATES
The Acting Director of Central Intelligence

ADMIRAL WILLIAM J. CROWE, JR.
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. WEBSTER
The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: Implementing Our Hostage Strategy (U)

Implementing the decisions of the February 24 NSPG, the President has directed that the following be the overall strategy for dealing with public affairs aspects relating to hostages and for USG dealings with hostage families. This strategy should be carried forward in the event of future hostage seizures and in the handling of any release of hostages currently held. It should also be followed in current and future dealings with families of hostages. (S)

The basic element behind this strategy is to persuade hostage holders that we will not make concessions to effect the release of hostages. We must also make a concerted effort to reduce the value of taking hostages and holding them in the eyes of kidnappers present and future. The USG will make all appropriate efforts to secure the release of its citizens held hostage.

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We will continue to be prepared to speak to anyone, any group or any government about the safety and well-being of our hostages.
(S)

1. Dealing with public aspects of hostage-taking and hostage release.

- a. **Future Seizures:** Our approach will be to indicate our concern, but not preoccupation at the highest levels of government. Reactions at the Department of State and the White House should touch on the following themes:
- o We are seriously concerned at this latest outbreak of lawlessness.
 - o Kidnappers are criminals. Their actions against innocents can only bring discredit to their cause.
 - o Our sympathies go out to the victims and their families.
 - o Those holding these hostages and all others should release them unharmed and at once.
 - o We hold the kidnappers responsible for the safety of their hostages.
 - o While we will not forget our fellow citizens held captive and will pursue all means consistent with the interests of the nation as a whole to secure their release, we will not make concessions since this would only encourage future acts of hostage-taking.
- b. If future seizures take place in Lebanon where we have warned Americans not to travel, and if otherwise appropriate, the following should be added to the above points:
- o It is most unfortunate that the individuals now taken hostage chose not to heed their government's warning of imminent peril to American citizens traveling to, within or through Lebanon.
- c. A second important element in the above strategy is the treatment of hostages when released by their captors. Again, we should show our concern for the health and welfare of the hostages without creating a major media event.

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We would ordinarily fly returning hostages and their immediate families to a reception site, e.g. the Air Force Hospital in Weisbaden or other pre-surveyed sites for the Latin America and the Pacific areas. Once there, the hostages would receive:

- o medical/psychological examinations;
- o counseling on how to cope with their return to freedom;
- o an opportunity to meet with or avoid the press;

While returning hostages are at a center an interagency group led by the State Department would debrief them for intelligence and evidentiary information.

After the debriefings, we should limit United States Government involvement to arranging commercial, not military, transportation directly to homes in the United States for the hostages and immediate families. We would not arrange special treatment once the individuals leave the reception center. They would not be flown to Washington nor encouraged to come on their own. Any USG contact with the returned hostages should be consistent with our overall approach. (S)

2. Dealing with hostage families and USG contacts with those families.

The State Department should continue its system for dealing with hostage families that provides for notification of or confirmation to the family as soon as the Department is sure of the facts. State designates a specified officer who is the point of contact for the family. Using this system the State Department should:

- o make weekly contact with the families to provide them with whatever information is available;
- o be easily accessible to the families between the weekly calls;
- o arrange for briefings for family members who come to Washington;
- o make sure the point of contact is currently informed on events and knows the history of the event and the region;

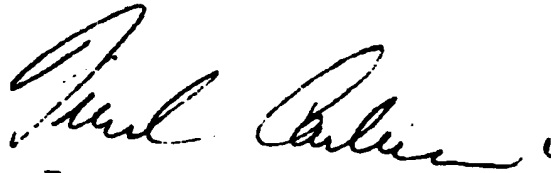
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- o consult as necessary with psychiatrists as to how the families might be counseled to assist them in dealing with current developments.
 - o assure the families that all possible efforts will be made to bring the terrorists to justice (e.g. through issuing arrest warrants, pursuing extradition, applying diplomatic pressure, and examining possible private legal action). (S)
3. As part of our efforts to reduce the political value of hostages, our public affairs plan as it applies to hostage families should be relatively passive. In responding to the questions which inevitably arise when dealing publicly with terrorism, and counterterrorism, statements and speeches should reflect the themes in 1 a. and b. above. (S)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:



Frank C. Carlucci

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