

Message Text

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61/11

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03

H-02 SY-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-15

SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 USSS-00 PPT-01 /085 W

----- 129468

O 020441Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2559

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 19371

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 19371 VICE 19871)

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HIJACKED AIR FRANCE AIRCRAFT

REF: BONN 11208

1. ELEVEN (11) AMERICANS WERE AMONG APPROXIMATELY 100
RELEASED PASSENGERS WHO ARRIVED PARIS ORLY AIRPORT
0230 JULY 2 BY SPECIAL AIR FRANCE FLIGHT. MET BY
CONOFFS AND TAKEN TO HOTELS. PASSENGERS GREATLY
FATIGUED AND CONOFFS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DEBRIEF THEM.
WE WILL TRY TO DEBRIEF THEM WHEN THEY APPLY FOR
PASSPORTS. ALL PASSENGERS PASSPORTS AND MANY IDENTITY
DOCUMENTS RETAINED BY HIJACKERS. UNLESS DEPT OBJECTS
WE INTEND TO ISSUE REPLACEMENT PASSPORTS.

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2. RELEASED AMERICANS ARE: DR. DAVID BASS, JAY EDWIN BRANDS, BACHELL ZEERE BRANDS, SANFORD FREEDMAN, JULIE ANN HARSTON, PETER VICTOR RABINOWITZ, NANCY SAM RABINOWITZ, MURRAY IRVING SCHWARTZ, PHYLLIS BERNARD TEODOROPOULOS, BARUCH LEIB ZEGER AND CYNTHIA ABRAHAM ZEGER.

3. BASS, TWO BRANDS, TWO RABINOWITZ AND MRS. TEODOROPOULOS AND HUSBAND STAYING CONCORDE LAFAYETTE HOTEL, SCHWARTZ STAYING ORLY HILTON. ZEGERS AT PARIS HILTON AND FREEDMAN JOINING MRS. TAYLOR AT HOTEL LITTRE.

4. MOST PASSENGERS INTEND STAY PARIS FEW DAYS EXCEPT FOR HARSTON WHO RETURNING TO US JULY 2 (SEE SEPTEL RE PASSPORT WAIVER).

5. AMONG RELEASED PASSENGERS, EID BOULOS RIZEK IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS JORDANIAN ALIEN RESIDENT OF DETROIT AND BEARER OF REENTRY PERMIT TAKEN FROM HIM BY HIJACKERS. QUESTION OF VISA WAIVER DISCUSSED IN KRUG/HURRITZ/INS TELCON AS RIZEK HOPES TO LEAVE FOR DETROIT BY AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 1100 HOURS JULY 2. PLEASE ADVISE RIZEK'S UNCLE, ANGELO ARANKI, 1731 WOODGATE, TROY, MICHIGAN 48084, TELEPHONE: (313) 524-6929 OF HIS COMING.

6. ZEGERS AND FREEDMAN REPORTED THAT ONLY INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE INVOLVED YOUNG ISRAELI MAN WHO REFUSED ANSWER HIJACKERS QUESTIONS AND MADE TO STAND FACE UP AGAINST WALL UNTIL HE FAINTED. ANOTHER MAN HAD BEEN THREATENED DURING HIJACKING WITH PISTOL WHIPPING OR ELBOW IN FACE IF HE MADE TROUBLE BUT NOTHING HAPPENED.

7. ZEGERS, FREEDMAN AND BASS SAID AMIN MADE SPEECH TO PASSENGERS TO BE RELEASED SAYING HE COULD DO NOTHING MORE TO HELP AND THAT FATE OF OTHERS IN HANDS OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. BUT NO THREATS REPORTED AGAINST REMAINING PASSENGERS AS OF DEPARTURE TIME.

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2560

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PARIS 19371

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 19371 VICE 19871)

8. AIR FRANCE AND FRENCH POLICE, WHO WERE DEBRIEFING SOME PASSENGERS WHO WANTED TALK, REQUESTED PASSENGERS NOT TO TALK IN GREAT DETAIL TO NEWS MEDIA. MANY REPORTERS AT ARRIVAL HALL THOUGH FEW GOT TO TALK MUCH WITH PASSENGERS IN CONFUSION OVER ONWARD TICKETS AND TEMPORARY LODGING, ETC. MERV GRIFFITH AND ENTOURAGE MET MURRAY SCHWARTZ AND BOTH TALKED TO PRESS AS DID MRS. ZEGER. BASED ON COMMENTS HEARD BY CONOFFS AND IN VIEW OF AGE AND PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES AMONG PASSENGERS THERE MAY BE SEVERAL DIFFERENT AND CONFLICTING VERSIONS OF HIJACKING IN PRESS. STATEMENTS MAY INCLUDE CHARGES THAT FREEDMAN, TAYLOR, AND OTHER YOUNGER PASSENGERS "SYMPATHETIC" TOWARDS HIJACKERS AND THAT OLDER PASSENGERS "INTRANSIGENCE" INFLUENCED HIJACKERS TO SEGREGATE "ISRAELIS."

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9. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, TWO OTHER AMERICANS, DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW OF MR. GEORGE KARFUNKEL, WERE NOT RELEASED. ACCORDING TO ZEGERS, THY WERE AMONG GROUP OF 88 "ISRAELIS" STILL HELD CAPTIVE ALONG WITH CREW OF 12 AND ABOUT 20 OTHER PASSENGERS. ZEGERS SAID KEL DAUGHTER BORN IN BROOKLYN AND SON-IN-LAW BORN IN HUNGARY BUT HAS BEEN LONG TIME NATURALIZED CITIZEN. THEY ARE NOT ISRAELI CITIZENS, BUT MAKING TEN-DAY HOLIDAY VISIT TO ISRAEL. ZEGERS DID NOT KNOW WHY THEY WERE INCLUDED IN ISRAELI GROUP.

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