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Approved for Release
Date December 1997

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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, DC 20505

National Intelligence Council

25 April 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Vice Admiral John M. Poindexter
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

FROM: Charles E. Allen
National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism
Director, DCI-Hostage Location Task Force

SUBJECT: DCI-Hostage Location Task Force Report

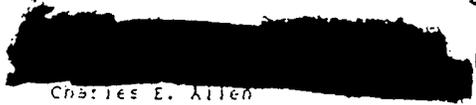
Attached is my report for the week 21-25 April 1986 on the status of
US hostages in Lebanon. Key developments this week were:

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CHARLES E. ALLEN

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Attachment:
Report As Stated

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SUBJECT: DCI-Hostage Location Task Force Report

DCI/NIO/CT/CAllen: [] (25 April 1986) b.3

Distribution:

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SPECIAL ACCESS REQUIRED

Report by the DCI Hostage Location Task Force: 21 - 25 April 1986

American Hostages

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Videotape of Alleged Hanging of British Hostage Alec Collett

An Natar, a leading Arab language newspaper in Beirut, on 23 April received a four minute videotape showing what an accompanying statement alleges to be the hanging of British hostage Alec Collett, an employee of the United Nations Works and Relief Agency (UNWRA). The tape showed an inert body of a man wearing a mask over his eyes and his hands tied behind him, swinging from a noose. A typed communique accompanied the tape signed by the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Moslems

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French Hostages

The new conservative government is putting together a tougher, more aggressive plan to secure the release of its hostages. Last week, French officials went public with at least some of their plans, telling reporters that France intends to make conciliatory gestures toward Iran in the hope of securing its assistance in freeing the French hostages. The gestures would include return of over \$1 billion deposited in France by the Shah for a nuclear reprocessing deal that has since fallen through, and restricting the activities of Iranian exiles living in France. The officials claimed, however, that the new government would not trade terrorists imprisoned in France for the hostages. Moreover, they would threaten to increase arms sales to Iraq if the Iranians do not cooperate.

A senior official of the [redacted] provided additional information on this matter to US Embassy officials earlier this week. The official said that the French had concluded the Syrians had little influence over the Hizballah organization holding the hostages, and that the French would have to deal with Tehran.

[redacted] According to the official, Prime Minister Chirac has decided he must make a strong effort to free the hostages to strengthen his own weak political position. In explanation, he stated that Chirac has been in office a short period of time, he has only a narrow majority in parliament, and President Mitterrand is still a powerful influence. He added that

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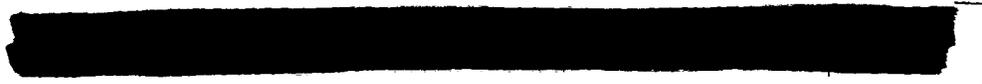
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In Beirut, the French started on 24 April to pull out their staff of teachers --one of the last vestiges of what had once been a considerable French presence in the city. This is undoubtedly a move to reduce French vulnerability to further kidnappings, but may also indicate French intentions to clear the decks before pushing forward with a more militant policy.

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Human Source Intelligence

[REDACTED] has reported that he met with a number of Hizballah members on 15 April in the Bija Valley. He indicated that they may in the near future provide him with a 'recent videotape' of the 'three' American hostages.

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Other Developments

[REDACTED] two British women who were seized by Hizballah in November 1985 were held in "the Hizballah prison in Basta". One of the women's Hizballah captors boasted that their location was where the TWA 847 hostages were held.

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indicating second or third-hand access to the hostage's captors. Rached mentioned that the Hizballah also apparently intends to circulate a report on the interrogation of William Buckley which he presumed had taken place under torture. US Embassy officials will stay in contact with Rached on any future developments.

We received corroboration from the Lebanese Directorate of Intelligence that the Basta Prison in Beirut serves as Hizballah's main facility. The Lebanese service also reported that Basta serves as the reporting center for the Iranian Embassy. The report also noted that striking Basta Prison would paralyze Hizballah's ability to operate in Beirut because it is considered a vital facility.

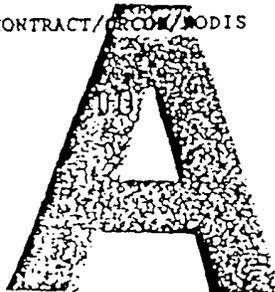
Other Development

Our sources stated that two British women who were seized by Hizballah in November 1985 were held in "the Hizballah prison in Basta". One of the women's Hizballah captors boasted that their location was where the TWA 847 hostages were held. DIA's Counterterrorism Section will attempt to debrief the British women.



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