

SECRET/NOFORN

PROJECT SUN STREAK

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PROJECT NUMBER: 8808

SESSION NUMBER: 01

DATE OF SESSION: 18 FEB 88

DATE OF REPORT: 18 FEB 88

START: 1600

END: 1800

METHODOLOGY: WRV

VIEWER IDENTIFIER: 079

1. (S/NF/SK) MISSION: Determine the location of US Marine Corps LTC William Rich Higgins.
2. (S/NF/SK) VIEWER TASKING: As above.
3. (S/NF/SK) COMMENTS: No Inclemencies noted. Results of session include future events and locations. Summary is attached as Enclosure 1.

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HANDLE VIA SKEET CHANNELS ONLY

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CLASSIFIED BY: DIA (DT)  
DECLASSIFY: OADR

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SUMMARY

US Marine Corps LTC Higgins was abducted about four to six miles south of Tyre, Lebanon, by a Shiite group of minor insignificance within the overall apparatus of the Iranian sponsored group known as the Hezbollah faction. There are seven captors, all male, responsible for guarding, feeding, and moving the prisoner from one area to the next. The general strategy will consist of moving LTC Higgins by automobile. Generally speaking he will be driven about five miles south of Tyre, and then in an easterly direction for another five to ten miles; from thence LTC Higgins will be driven in a zigzag route while heading in a general northerly direction to arrive in Beirut on 17 March 1988. At that time, LTC Higgins will be held hostage in an area in close proximity to the other hostages. LTC Higgins will not be hurt or killed, but he will be on the move for some time. At this time, he is making a special effort to keep track of time, dates, distances, sounds and other cues to determine his whereabouts. He is still ~~st~~ somewhat in a state of shock at being captured; he will develop a further strategy on how to react to his captors. Dependent on the applicability of this strategy, his reaction to his captors, he could be released quite soon ~~on the one hand~~. In any case, he will be released soon after the 17th of March 1988, and before the other hostages (Cordes in June and Waite in August 1988). The Shiite captors

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will use a "big black Mercedes", a limousine type automobile to move LTC Higgins. The registration tag consists of black letters on a white background and seem to bear the letters "PLNN". A "red sign" (sticker) is affixed to one side of the rear of the car; the red sticker serves as a "laissez passer", a type of official pass. In two or three days he will be held in captivity in an area that is used as a sort of political assembly type place, site where political rallies, meetings take place. (Other sources indicate Beaufort Castle as a location of specific interest). The captors will stay at an old (Lebanese) government hotel to monitor TV and radio broadcasts to evaluate the reaction to the kidnapping. LTC Higgins will be held at a nearby shelter. At that time, the captors will meet with Lebanese Government officials (one such Lebanese official has a French sounding name); representatives of Finland will also take part in the negotiations. The US Government will negotiate via the Finnish officials for the release of Higgins. LTC Higgins is currently being held and is physically located in a damp tunnel with moss on top; the tunnel appears to be some sort of bridge; he will be uncomfortable (damp/cold) for the next two or three days. The hotel is located about 24 miles north of his present location indicated as immediately south of "Al Bayyadah". The black Mercedes will also go through a checkpoint at "Rok" (not indicated on the map), in the immediate vicinity of "Al Majadil" described as a "friendly force" (Lebanese Amal Force). On two occasions, LTC Higgins will be placed "down and under", well hidden to escape detection. At one point, (possibly at Beaufort

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Castle as identified by other sources) he will be videotaped against a white wall background in a tall slender structure next to a small town. This will take place near or at a structure associated with the concept of historical museum. (Possibly identifiable with Beaufort Castle.) This particular area of interest (has been) will be sold to the Shiite group." News of Higgins will "come out" during the period of 45 days to 48 days (3 to 6 April 1988), from now (this date). The Shiite captors, for whatever reason, do not consider LTC Higgins a "prize" hostage of high political value. This particular splinter group of captors is also quite disenchanted with the major group and directions from Iran. As a group the captors, <sup>they</sup> feel this dirty work <sup>K</sup> should be given to someone else. There is internal strife, a feeling that Khomeini's rule is affecting (unfavorably) everyone, enemies and friends alike. The fanatic dedication to the cause, so to speak, has greatly abated within this splinter group.

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