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7 September 1969

## MEMORANDUM FOR DAVE MCMANIS

FROM: Ray Wotring

SUBJECT: Morning Cable Summary

Brazil: Following yesterday morning's Ministerial meeting the Brazilian Foreign Minister announced the government's decision to follow through with the prisoners exchange. After several hours of delay, caused by difficulties in assembling the prisoners, a Brazilian Air Force C-130 departed Rio for Mexico City yesterday evening with 13 prisoners aboard. The aircraft made two subsequent stops enroute to pick up the remaining two prisoners and is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Mexico City at about 3:00 PM EDT today. Meanwhile, the kidnapers have released another note and a letter from Ambassador Elbrick to Mrs. Elbrick. The kidnapers's note states once confirmation is received through international agencies, i. e., radio stations and/or the Mexican Embassy, Ambassador Elbrick will be released. Ambassador Elbrick's letter indicates that he is well and expects to be released today.

The military apparently was not happy with the government's decision to exchange the prisoners [redacted]

[redacted] The government is cognizant of this dissatisfaction and is using Brazil's forthcoming Independence Day as a means to rally the country into a festive mood. However, yesterday evening four men dressed as Army paratroopers briefly took over the government radio station just outside Rio and read a short note denouncing the government's decision to release the 15 prisoners. (Various)

Libya: The State Department spokesman announced early yesterday afternoon that we intend to maintain diplomatic relations with the new regime in Libya. Subsequently our Charge in Libya presented a representative of the RCC an aide-memoire tendering formal US recognition. Meanwhile, the identity of the RCC maybe surfacing. An authoritative UAR source, recently returned from Libya, reports that the main group of the RCC including it's president, are between 20 and 30 years of age and that Abu Shuwayrib is not the head of the RCC. King Idris announced yesterday that he will abdicate within a few days and intends to return to Libya to live as an ordinary citizen. State 151150, Tripoli 2282, 2177, FBIS 83)

Current Situation in Lebanon: Lebanon's internal situation appears to have been severely affected by Israel's recent retaliatory attacks. President Helou reports that subversive elements are using these attacks to weaken his regime and to strengthen the position of the Fedayeen in Lebanon. Helou

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concludes that a direct confrontation between the Army and the Fedayeen would split the country, therefore, he has requested three US moves to ameliorate the deteriorating internal situation: 1) our help in persuading Saude Arabia and Iran to improve relations with Lebanon; 2) US assistance in halting Israeli attacks for 15 days to three-weeks during which time he will attempt to form a government; 3) a unilateral US declaration emphasizing our traditional concern for the independence and integrity of Lebanon. (Beirut 7419)

Effect on Libyan Coup on Tunisian Security: The government of Tunisia has expressed deep concern over the Libyan coup and concludes that Tunisia is now flanked by pro-Soviet regimes--Libya on the east and Algeria on the west--which constitutes a major threat to their security. Our Embassy in Tunis believes Tunisian security will be the principal subject Foreign Minister Bourguiba will raise with Secretary Rogers prior to the UNGA and will possibly request from us: 1) a security assurance encompassing external and internal aggression; 2) improved MAP to possibly include high performance aircraft; 3) greater economic assistance. (Tunis 5237)

Reaction to Phantom Delivery: The Israeli's announced yesterday the Phantom delivery and thus far only limited reaction has been received. The Iraqi's described the delivery as an act of US aggression against the Arabs, while the Egyptians declare that the delivery ends the hope that the US is acting for peace in the Middle East. Mohamed Riad was visibly disturbed when informed and stated that Israel's adamancy would be further hardened and that prospects for a negotiated settlement now appeared slim. The Saudis believe the delivery, following hard on the Libyan coup, will further weaken their position at home and in the Arab world. King Faisal will reportedly be upset and the news will further spotlight Saudi Arabia's "unpopular" ties with the US. (Various)

Operation Ho Chi Minh: In an unprecedented double hijacking, gunmen hijacked two Ecuadorean Military Air Transport DC-3's yesterday on

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flights from Quito to Guayaquil and from Esmeraldas to Quito and forced them to fly to Tumaco, Colombia, where twelve hijackers, crew and fifteen passengers transferred to one DC-3 and took off for Cuba. A co-pilot was killed and an Ecuadorian Army Sergeant was wounded while attempting to disarm the hijackers. Ecuadorian authorities report there are no US citizens aboard hijacked aircraft. Cuban authorities have yet indicated if and when they will permit the aircraft's return to Ecuador. (Various)

Tell "Tail" Clue: Members of the Nature Preservation Society who are aiding in the search for James Pike, discovered his underpants beside a water hole in the Judean Wilderness yesterday. Identification of the garment was confirmed by Mrs. Pike. (Press)

Ho Cease-fire Rejected: In a communique released this morning, President Thieu rejected the three-day Viet Cong cease-fire called to commemorate Ho Chi Minh. The basis for the rejection is the present increase in enemy activity and the enemy's past failure to observe cease-fires. (Saigon 18141)

South Vietnam/Military: The tempo of enemy initiated activity declined somewhat last night with 36 rocket/mortar attacks reported throughout the country. Bien Hoa Airbase received the heaviest indirect fire attack with eighteen 122. mm rockets impacting on the base resulting in seven South Vietnamese civilians killed and 12 wounded. Materiel and base damage was light. The Third Corps continues to experience the brunt of the ground action, however, there are no sustained engagements underway. The most significant enemy initiated ground attack took place just northwest of Cam Ranh City when approximately 200 enemy attacked and looted a resettlement hamlet. This attack resulted in ten South Vietnamese killed and eleven wounded.

Cumulative Casualties for Present Enemy "High Point":

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>
US	63	334
ARVN	161	411
Enemy	1,285	-----