Wilson Center | Digital Archive
International History Declassified
digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org

August 1, 1985
First Middle East Division, 'Problem of the American Hostages in Lebanon'

Citation:

"First Middle East Division, 'Problem of the American Hostages in Lebanon'", August 1, 1985, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, File No. 2017-0631. Translated by Stephen Mercado. https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/270631

Summary:

A summary from the First Middle East Division of the Japanese government about the American hostages held in Lebanon. This document discusses the correspondence between the United States and Japan regarding the hostages and what steps Japan had taken as of August 1, 1985.

Original Language:

Japanese

Contents:

Original Scan
Translation - English

Wilson Center Digital Archive Original Scan

レバノンにおける米国人人質問題

６０．８．１
中近東第一課

１．従来の経緯

（１）本年１月米側より在京クラーク公使を通じ久米近ア局参事官に対し本件人質解放のためイランに働きかけて欲しい旨要請越した。これを受け，同参事官よりガヴァヒ在京イラン大使に対しイラン政府が何らかの形で人質解放のため影響力を行使しうる余地があるのであれば好ましい旨べたところ，先方は本国に取り次ぐ旨述べた。

（２）本年４月三宅近ア局長がイランを訪問した際，同国政府に対し本件につき協力を求めた。

（３）本年６月ラフサンジャニ議長訪日の先遣隊として来日したアルデビリ・イラン外務次官に対し，近ア局長よりも強く申し入れ済み。また，７月２３日にも在イラン野村大使よりアハニ政務局長に申し入れた。

（４）本年７月１８日，安倍大臣がシリアを訪問した際，シャラ外相に対し，本件人質解放に向けてのシリアの努力を働きかけたところ，先方は，アサド大統領の指示もあり，シリア政府としては最大限の努力を行っている旨回答。（この点は在米大を通じシュルツ長官にも通報済み。）

２．今回のレーガン大統領よりの要請とその対応振り

（１）２８日，「レ」大統領より中曽根総理に電話連絡があり，７人の米人人質解放につき協力を得たい旨要請。これに対し総理は出来る限りの努力を行う旨返答。（その後，マ

Wilson Center Digital Archive Original Scan

ックファーレン補佐官より松永大使に対しても同様の要請あり。）

（２）２９日同大使に対し，「我が国は今後とも本件につき出来る限りの努力を行っていく所存であり，安倍大臣よりイラン，シリア両外相に対し緊急に特別メッセージを発出する予定である」旨米側に通報するよう訓令済み。

（３）本件に対する我が方の対応振り次の通り。

（イ）イラン・シリア両外相に対し安倍大臣より特別メッセージを発出済み。

（ロ）総理特使派遣。

Problem of the American Hostages in Lebanon

August 1, 1985

First Middle East Division

1. The Situation So Far

(1) In January this year, the US side requested - via a visit from the US Embassy's Counselor Clark to Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Deputy Assistant Minister Kume - that Japan appeal to Iran for the liberation of the hostages. Deputy Assistant Minister Kume then spoke to Iranian Ambassador to Japan Gavahi, saying that it would be welcome if the Iranian Government were able to exercise its influence in some form for the release of the hostages. Ambassador Gavahi said that he would convey the request to his country.

(2) In April this year, Bureau Director-General Miyake requested the cooperation of the Iranian Government in regard to the matter on the occasion of his visit to Iran.

(3) The Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Director-General strongly appealed to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ardebili, who had come to Japan in advance of the June visit to Japan of Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani. Also, on July 23, Ambassador to Iran Nomura made the request to Political Bureau Director Ahani.

(4) On July 18 this year, on the occasion of Minister Abe's visit to Syria, the Minister made an appeal to Foreign Minister Shara for Syria to work towards the release of the hostages. Foreign Minister Shara replied that there were also President Assad's instructions and that the Syrian Government was doing its utmost. (We reported this to Secretary Shultz via our embassy in Washington.)

2. Present Request from President Reagan and Our Response

(1) On the 28th, President Reagan contacted Prime Minister Nakasone by telephone and requested his cooperation in the release of the seven American hostages. In response, the Prime Minister replied that he would do his utmost. (Later, President's Assistant McFarlane made a similar request of Ambassador Matsunaga.)

(2) On the 29th, we instructed Ambassador Matsunaga to inform the US side: "Our country intends to make from this point onward the utmost effort in regard to this matter. Minister Abe plans to send immediately a special message to the foreign ministers of Iran and Syria."

(3) Our side's response to this matter is as follows:

(a) Minister Abe has sent a special message to the foreign ministers of Iran and Syria.

(b) The Prime Minister will send a special envoy.