

August 8, 1985

**Second Middle East Division, 'Problem of the
Release of the American Hostages (Problem of
Public Announcement in Iran)'**

Citation:

"Second Middle East Division, 'Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Problem of Public Announcement in Iran)'", August 8, 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/280670>

Summary:

A report from the Second Middle East Division in Japan. After Special Envoy Nakayama's visit to Iran to discuss the problem of the American hostages held in Lebanon, Iran expressed desire to announce the meeting to the public, despite Japan's request otherwise. Japan convinced Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani not to make the meeting public.

Original Language:

Japanese

Contents:

Original Scan
Translation - English

中近東第一課長

中近東アフリカ局長
参事官
中近東第二課長
首席事務官



米国人人質解放問題

(イランに於ける人質問題)

60. 8. 8

正 =

1. 事件経緯

(1) 7日、中山特使、イランに於ける議表を呈送

後、イラン外務省より「議表の指針及び
上記原稿を公表せしむべし、如何なる

了解を求めらるべきは（本件を極秘として
取り扱う事柄に、イラン外務省に強く申入るべき

如何、議表及び指針を公開せしむべき
に如何なる操作。）

(2) 如何にイラン外務省に対し本件の不公表を
要求する旨を、イラン側に再行して要請。

何れ側にも、協議表を本件に於ける再検討
の結果、此の交渉の進展を、本件

の進展に於ける進展を、如何に
促進せん。

2. 本件に於ける留意点

1. 本件結着の際に、何れ側にも結果

日・米間の交渉の進展を、如何に

日本側が、如何に
の進展を、如何に

如何に、如何に
の進展を、如何に

（本件結着の際に）

1. 本件結着の際に、如何に
の進展を、如何に

如何に、如何に

Secret

Problem of the Release of the American Hostages
(Problem of Public Announcement in Iran)

August 8, 1985

Second Middle East Division

1. Background to the Present Situation

1) On the 7th, following the meeting between Special Envoy Nakayama and Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani, the Iranian Foreign Ministry, at the instruction of Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani, expressed its desire to announce the meeting to the public and sought our side's understanding. (We made a strong request of the Iranian Foreign Ministry beforehand on keeping this matter secret, but it appears that this point was not communicated correctly to Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani.)

2) Our side responded by insisting that they not announce this matter publicly and requesting the Iranian side to reconsider. The Iranian side then confirmed to us that they brought this matter to the attention of Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani who, having reconsidered it, decided to respect our side's intention and refrain from making a public announcement.

2. Points to Keep in Mind Regarding This Matter

1) At the time this matter was settled, the Iranian side pointed to instances in the past when Iran had made a request that the contents of talks between Japan and Iran not be made public but that, even so, the Japanese side had in some form made the information public or leaked it to the press. One can say of this point that we "owe" the Iranian side one.

2) Also, after all this, it will not be good for our relationship with Iran if the dispatch of our special envoy in this matter is leaked from our side, so we need to pay even more attention regarding this point.