

**August 5, 1985**

**Problem of the Release of the American Hostages  
(Main Points of Questions and Answers)**

**Citation:**

"Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Main Points of Questions and Answers)", August 5, 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/280676>

**Summary:**

This document is the main points of questions and answers in preparation for Japanese Special Envoy Nakayama's visit to Syria to persuade the Syrian government to assist in the release of the American hostages in Lebanon.

**Original Language:**

Japanese

**Contents:**

Original Scan

Translation - English

### < 応答要領 >

1. (我が方がかかる要請が米国よりの依頼に基づくものでないかと質問越す場合)

米国は人質の件につき大きな懸念とフラストレーションを有しており、かかる米のフラストレーションは世界的にも  
いふことは事実であるが

~~好ましくない影響を及ぼしている。~~

今次の我が方が要請は、米がかかるフラストレーション

~~を抑えることが、日米関係に照らし我が国の国益に  
なるものか。中曽根総理が独自のイニシアチブ~~  
(やりかた)

で行うものである。

2. (他の諸国に対して同様のアプローチをしているのかと問われた場合)

同様のアプローチは、イラン政府に対しても行った。

3. (米のベールート空港利用停止に係る動きに関する  
我が方の見解を問われた場合)

我が国としてはベールート空港閉鎖措置については  
慎重に検討する必要があると考えている。我が国はレバ

ノン政府によりベールート空港の安全措置が強化され  
つつあると聞いており、右が早急に実現することを希

望する。また、ハイジャック防止のためには、ICAO等  
の場で実効的措置が打ち出されることを希望している。

4. (7人の米国人人質はTWA機事件に対する米国の  
報復を抑止することになる旨の見解を表明した場合)

我が方としては従来より武力による報復は問題の  
解決に資さないとの立場であり、要すれば米に對して

も武力による報復を行わない方が働きかけていく  
所存。

5. (イスラエルがシーク派捕虜の釈放も実行していないのは遺憾と述べた場合).

(1) イスラエルは TWA 機事件発生前より シーク派捕虜を釈放する計画? ありと承知。イスラエルは右に

基づき、これまで 400 人以上を釈放しており今後とも残りの捕虜を釈放していくものと思う。

(2) もし今後 捕虜の釈放が遅延する場合に於て我が国としても イスラエル、米に対し早期釈放を働き

かけるよう 総理、外務大臣に 進言したい。

(Main Points of Questions and Answers)

1. (If asked whether our request is based on a request from the United States)

It is true that the United States is greatly concerned and frustrated over the matter of the hostages, but this request of ours is one that Prime Minister Nakasone is making on his own judgment and initiative.

[TN: First version, crossed out, reads: "The United States is greatly concerned and frustrated over the matter of the hostages, and this frustration of the United States has an undesirable effect globally as well. Our side's request, from the viewpoint of our country's national interest in light of Japan-US relations, is one that Prime Minister Nakasone is making on his own initiative."]

2. (If asked whether we are making the same approach to other countries)

We have made a similar approach to the Iranian government.

3. (If asked regarding our side's view concerning the US move related to suspending use of the Beirut airport)

Our country thinks it necessary to consider carefully the measure of closing the Beirut airport. Our country has heard that the Lebanese government is strengthening the Beirut airport's security measures; we hope that this is realized immediately. Also, we hope that effective measures for the prevention of hijackings will be issued from the ICAO [International Civilian Aviation Organization] and other forums.

4. (If there is expressed the view that the seven American hostages prevent the United States from retaliating for the TWA incident)

Our side has always held the position that retaliation by force does not contribute to the resolution of problems. If necessary, we intend to appeal to the United States as well not to carry out retaliation by force.

5. (If it is said that it is regrettable that Israel has not carried out the release of the Shia prisoners)

(1) We are aware that Israel had planned, before the TWA incident took place, to release the Shia prisoners. On this basis, Israel has released over 400 of them and, we think, is going to release the remaining prisoners.

(2) If the release of the prisoners is delayed, we would wish to suggest to the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister that they appeal to Israel and the United States for their immediate release.