

**July 31, 1985**

**First Middle East Division, 'Problem of the Release of the American Hostages in Lebanon (Briefing Material for the Prime Minister [Nakasone])'**

**Citation:**

"First Middle East Division, 'Problem of the Release of the American Hostages in Lebanon (Briefing Material for the Prime Minister [Nakasone])'", July 31, 1985, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, File No. 2017-0631. Translated by Stephen Mercado.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/270630>

**Summary:**

This document briefs the Prime Minister of Japan on the situation regarding the American hostages in Lebanon and the request from the United States that Japan speak to the Iran and Syria about the matter.

**Original Language:**

Japanese

**Contents:**

Original Scan

Translation - English

中近東ア局局長

極秘  
無期限  
部の内  
号

(封後理グリーン用資料)

レバノンにおける米国人質解放問題

60.7.31

中近東第1課

1. 従来ノ経緯

(1) 本年1月米側より在京米大クラブ公使を通じて米

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を欲しい旨要請越した。これを受け、同参

事官より加増と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

る余地があるのではあるが好ましい旨述べたと、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 シリア二儀長訪日の先遣隊として朝長(元駐シリア大使)がシリア外務省に訪れ、近ア局長より強く申し入れ有。

本年7月、安倍大臣がシリアを訪問した際、シリア

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最大限の努力を行っている旨回答。

2. 今回のレーガン大統領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あり、7人の米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 [REDACTED] マックアレン

補佐官より松永大使に対し<sup>27</sup>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対して出来る限りの努力を怠りなく所存であり、安倍大臣がイラン、シリア両外相に対し緊急に特別メッセージを發出する予定である旨米側に通報するよう訓令済。

(3) 本件に関する我が方の対応振り次の通り。

(1) イラン、シリア両外相に対し、特別メッセージを發出

（緊急に要請）

予予定 (現在 決裁中)

(b) 中山大使を総理特使として来週兩國に派遣する予定で  
現在準備中。また同大使に総理親書を託すこと

検討中。

Secret

(Briefing Material for the Prime Minister)

Problem of the Release of the American Hostages in Lebanon

July 31, 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 release 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.

(4) In July 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.

## 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, [TN: section blacked out] 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 plans to send a special message to the foreign ministers of Iran and Syria (now in the process of receiving approval).

(b) We are now preparing to send Ambassador Nakayama next week as the Prime Minister's envoy to both countries. In addition, we are considering entrusting the Ambassador with a letter from the Prime Minister.