

**July 30, 1985**

**Cable No. 388, Foreign Minister to the Ambassador  
[Kato], 'Problem of the Release of the American  
Hostages (Special Message to Foreign Minister  
Shara)'**

**Citation:**

"Cable No. 388, Foreign Minister to the Ambassador [Kato], 'Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Special Message to Foreign Minister Shara)'" , July 30, 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/270642>

**Summary:**

A telegram documenting correspondence between the Foreign Minister Shara and the Ambassador to Syria regarding the American hostages in Lebanon.

**Original Language:**

Japanese

**Contents:**

Original Scan  
Translation - English



1. 先般の貴国訪問の際は、貴~~国~~<sup>(国民)</sup>より心のかもつた御款待を頂き、改めて<sup>感</sup>感謝致します。

アサド大統領及び貴大臣との会談は極めて有意義なものであり、私は今後とも両国間の友好協力関係の一層の増進のため、~~経済・技術協力、文化交流等を通じ~~あらゆる努力を行う<sup>所存</sup>決意であります。

また、中東和平問題についても貴外相との間で率直な意見交換を十分行っていきたいと考えています。

2. 更に今回の訪問中は貴大臣よりTWA機事件人質解放のため貴国が最大限の努力を払ったこと及び現在モリバノンで捕われている米国人人質7名の解放に向け貴国が最大限の努力を行っていることを伺い、誠に強く感じた次第であります。我が国政府、国民はこれらの事件につき大きな関心を有しており、~~致し~~貴国のかかる現実的かつ責任ある態度を高く評価

しております。

3. 貴大臣との会<sup>談</sup>議<sup>国</sup>を通じ、米人<sup>国</sup>人質7名の解放に關しては困難な問題があることについては十分承知しておりますが、貴国が行っている右人質解放のため<sup>の</sup>人道的努力が一日も早く実を結ぶことを心より希望しており、今後とも解放の見通し等関連情報につきお知らせ頂ければ幸いです。

(3)

Number: 064838-002

Draft Telegram

Drafted: July 30, 1985

Primary: Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Director-General

To: Ambassador to Syria    □  
From: Foreign Minister

Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Special Message to Foreign Minister Shara)

No. 388 Secret Urgent (Priority Processing)

(Limited Distribution)

Re: Outgoing First Middle East Division Telegram No. 387 Separate Telegram

1. Once again, thank you for the heart-felt welcome of your country's people that I enjoyed at the time of my recent visit to your country.

Foreign Minister, the meetings with you and President Assad were extremely significant. I intend henceforth to make every effort for the further promotion of relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

In addition, I would like to engage fully in a frank exchange of views with you regarding the problem of peace in the Middle East.

2. Furthermore, I felt reassured in the course of this recent visit by your country having made the utmost efforts for the release of the hostages in the TWA Incident and by your country now making the utmost efforts for the release of the seven American hostages held in Lebanon. Japan's government and people have a great interest in these matters and highly appraise your country's realistic and responsible attitude.

3. Through meeting with you, I am fully aware that there is a difficult problem concerning the release of the seven American hostages. I sincerely hope that the humanitarian efforts that your country is making for the release of the hostages will bear fruit as soon as possible. I would be happy if, from this point onward as well, you would let me know of information on prospects for their release and such.

(End)