

**August 5, 1985**

**Cable No. 394, Foreign Minister to the Ambassador to Syria, 'Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Main Points of Remarks, Questions and Answers for Prime Minister's Special Envoy)'**

**Citation:**

"Cable No. 394, Foreign Minister to the Ambassador to Syria, 'Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Main Points of Remarks, Questions and Answers for Prime Minister's Special Envoy)'", 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://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/280679>

**Summary:**

A draft telegram from the Foreign Minister of Japan to the Ambassador to Syria that discusses the main points for discussion regarding the Special Envoy Nakayama's visit to Syria. The document discusses the release of the American hostages in Lebanon and the TWA Flight 847 hijacking incident of 1985.

**Original Language:**

Japanese

**Contents:**

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Translation - English

極 秘  
無 期 限

※ 総第 066185 号

※昭和 年 月 日 時 分 受 付  
60 8 - -5 19:48

略

(回覧番号) 3012 電 信 案

電信課長

自 記

大 臣 <del>政務次官</del> <del>事務次官</del> 外務審議官 外務審議官 官 房 長	主管 中近東第一課長 参 事 中近東第一課長 地域調整官 首席事務官	※ 発電係 1 2 起案 昭和 60 年 8 月 5 日 起案者 電話番号 竹元 2764
	協議先 中近東第一課長	

(※印欄内は電信課記入)

在 三ア 大使 あて 外務大臣 発  
総領事

件名 米国人質解放問題 (総領事特使発言答要領)

主管・文書記号	※	大至急	至急	パターン・コード
近 1	第 395 号	普通	(優先処理)	ASSID

(100字)

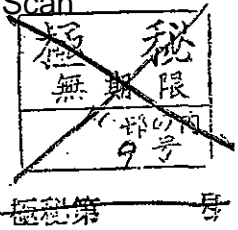
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転電 <del>転送</del> 在 転報	大使 あて 総領事 大至急	※転電番号 第 号 至急 (優先処理) 普通
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(昭和五九・一・一改正)

外務省



米国人人質解放問題

( 発言要領 )

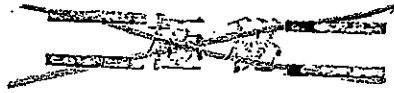
1. 貴国が T W A 機事件人質解放に向け多大の努力を払われたこと及び現在もレバノン内に捕われている米国人人質7名の解放に向け最大限の努力を払われていることは誠に心強い。

我が国政府及び国民はこれらの事件につき大きな関心を有しており、貴国のかかる現実的かつ責任ある態度を高く評価。

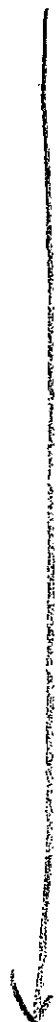
2. 我が国としては貴国と同様テロリズムには強く反対しており、人道的見地からも本件人質問題が一刻も早く解決することを念願。

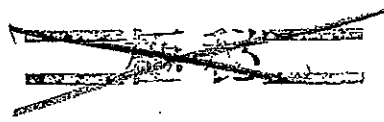
3. 中曽根総理も安倍大臣よりの報告を受け、米国人7名を含むレバノンの外国人人質の解放には多くの困難な問題があることは十分承知しているが、貴国が行っているこれら人質解放のための人道的努力が一日も早く実を結ぶことを期待しており引き続き貴国が最大限の努力を払われるよう心から希望している。今後とも解放の見通し等関連情報につきお知らせ頂ければ幸甚。

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< 応答要領 >

1. (我が方のかかる要請が米国よりの依頼に基づくものでは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いることは事実であるが、今次の我が方の要請は中曽根総理が独自の判断とイニシャティブで行うものである。

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)

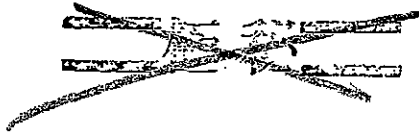
同様のアプローチはイラン政府に対しても行つた。

3. (米のベイ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)

我が国としてはベイ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イ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、I C A O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T W A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



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の解決に資さないとの立場であり、要すれば米に対しても武力による報復を行わないよう働きかけていく所存。

(5.) (イスラエルがシーア派捕虜の釈放を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ア派捕虜を釈放する計画であつたと承知。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は我が国としてもイスラエル、米に対し早期釈放方働きかけるよう総理、外務大臣に進言したい。

3)

Number: 066185-001

Draft Telegram

Drafted: August 5, 1985

Primary: First Middle East Division Director

To: Ambassador to Syria    □  
From: Foreign Minister

Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Main Points of Remarks and Questions and Answers for Prime Minister's Special Envoy)

No. 394 Secret Urgent (Priority Processing) Q55ID

Re: Outgoing Telegram First Middle East Division Director's No. 394 Separate Telegram

Problem of the Release of the American Hostages

(Main Points of Remarks)

1. The great efforts that your country made for the release of the hostages in the TWA incident and the utmost effort that your country is making now for the release of the seven American hostages held in Lebanon are truly encouraging.

Our country's government and people have a great concern for these incidents and highly appreciate your country's realistic and responsible attitude.

2. Our country, the same as yours, strongly opposes terrorism and keeps always in mind from a humanitarian point of view the resolution of this hostage problem as soon as possible.

3. Prime Minister Nakasone, too, having received Minister Abe's report, is fully aware that there are many difficult problems in the release of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, including the seven Americans. He looks forward to your country's humanitarian efforts for the release of the hostages bearing fruit as soon as possible and sincerely hopes for your country to continue making its utmost effort. He would be grateful if you would let us know henceforth as well of information related to prospects for their release and other matters.

4. [TN: all of section 4 blacked out]

(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.