

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

NOTE FROM: [illeg]

Subject: Downed Plane

Nice of you to held a policy-making meeting on this and not invite us....I wonder who the "[illeg]" is in Vince's last sentence....Mouse in pocket? Hudson? Saluting the brave men who are doing this is part of the President's policy, I would have thought....

***Forwarding note from NSVMC --CPUA 10/8/86 16:08 ***

To: [illeg] --CPUA JOHN H. POINDEXTER NSWRP --CPUA

NOTE FROM: Vincent Cannistaro

SUBJECT: Downed Plane

At RIG meeting with Elliott Abrams today the question of the captured American held by the Nicaraguans was discussed. Following decisions were made:

--Demands for consular access would continue. Elliott thought Nics would accede to our request today. (he later called me to say the Nics had still not responded and we should be prepared to escalate tomorrow if there is no movement. Believes we may have to make this a "hostage crisis" to exert leverage on Sandinistas
[4 lines excised]

--Press Guidance was prepared which states no U.S.G. involvement or connection, but that we are generally aware of such support contracted by the Contras.

--UNO to be asked to assume responsibility for flight to assist families of Americans involved. Elliot will follow up with Ollie to facilitate with this.

--ARA will attempt to identify appropriate legal consul and ask UNO to engage him. Lawyer will be asked to donate services pro bono. Alternatively, private money can be found, according to Elliott.

--HPSCI and SSCI have been briefed and there were no problems.

--Elliott said he would continue to tell the press these were brave men and brave deeds. We recommend he not do this because it contributes to perception U.S.G. inspired and encouraged private lethal aid effort.

FILE: 77549

OFFENSE: NO. UNIT: COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY

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TO: SAC: NSLR --CPA TC: NSPC --CPA
 TO: SAC: --CPA

10/09/66 17:17:25

FROM: SAC: Robert L. Earl

SUBJECT: Beyond Plane

Time of 100 to hold a policy-making meeting on this and not invite us....
 "Waiting for the plane" (in Vice's last sentence)... House in pocket?
 "Waiting" Selecting the brave men who are doing this is part of the
 President's policy, I would have thought....

TO: SAC: NSLR --CPA 10/09/66 16:08 ***

TO: SAC: --CPA JOHN R. POINTEUR NSLR --CPA JOHN R. POINTEUR

FROM: SAC: Vincent Cabistrano

SUBJECT: Beyond Plane

At his meeting with Elliott today the question of the captured American
 held by the Nicaraguans was discussed. Following decisions were made:

--Requests for consular access would continue. Elliott thought Hicks would
 accede to our request today. (He later called me to say the Hicks had still not
 responded and we should be prepared to escalate tensions if there is no
 movement. He'll even say have to take this a "hostage crisis" to erect
 leverage on Sandinistas.

--Press Guidance was prepared which stated no U.S.G. involvement or
 connection, but that we are generally aware of such support contracted by the
 Contras.

--HRO to be asked to assume responsibility for flight and to assist
 facilities of Americans involved. Elliott will follow up with Willie to
 facilitate this.

--AWE will attempt to identify appropriate legal counsel and ask URO to
 pay him. Lawyer will be asked to donate services pro bono. Alternatively,
 private money can be found, according to Elliott.

--NSCI and SFCI have been briefed and there were no problems.

--Elliott said he would continue to tell the press these were brave men
 and brave deeds. He encouraged me not do this because it contributes to
 perception U.S.G. inspired and encouraged private initial aid effort.

CC: SAC: --CPA

NSLR --CPA

SUBJECT: Beyond Plane

UNCLASSIFIED

EXHIBIT

FA-48