

August 15, 1985

**Cable No. 6164, Ambassador Matsunaga to the
Foreign Minister, 'Problem of the Release of the
American Hostages'**

Citation:

"Cable No. 6164, Ambassador Matsunaga to the Foreign Minister, 'Problem of the Release of the American Hostages'", August 15, 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.umd.edu/document/270612>

Summary:

A telegram from Ambassador Matsunaga to the Foreign Minister describing Presidential Assistant McFarlane's response to Special Envoy Nakayama's visit to Iran and Syria.

Original Language:

Japanese

Contents:

Original Scan
Translation - English

注 意

1. 本電の取扱いは慎重を期せられたい。
2. 本電の内容に関する照会、要望等は特殊電配布班(TEL2173)に。
3. 本電の主管変更は記帳班 (TEL2172) に連絡ありたい。

極秘

電 信 写

たところ、その取扱いにはくれぐれも御注意願いたい。(了)

Number: R111223

Primary: Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Director-General

Sent: United States, August 15, 1985, 22:24

Received: MOFA, August 16, 1985, 11:25

To: The Foreign Minister □

From: Ambassador Matsunaga

Problem of the Release of the American Hostages

No. 6164 Secret Top Urgent

(Limited Distribution)

Re: Your Telegram, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Director-General's Telegram No. 4138

1. On the 15th, I gave a briefing by telephone on the meetings of Special Envoy Nakayama with government leaders in Iran and Syria to Presidential Assistant McFarlane, who is staying in Santa Barbara, California, with President Reagan. I also requested that he convey the briefing to President Reagan. The other side's response is as follows below.

(1) I am happy that you contacted us. The Government of Japan is most kind. Also, I am profoundly grateful for your government's taking prompt action. I will contact the President immediately. I think that the President will tell me to convey to you that he, too, is profoundly grateful.

(2) Having heard you speak, I have the sense that Iran and Syria have a strong confidence in Japan. Please let us know of any progress from this point onward.

(3) In addition, and I ask that you not tell others, according to indications from Israel, the plan is for the remaining hostages to be released by September 10.

2. Regarding 1. (3) above, the other side having stressed their desire to strictly limit this information to the Government of Japan, I request that care be taken in its handling. (End)