

August 1, 1985

Cable No. 1347, Charge d'Affairs Tanabe to the Foreign Minister, 'Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Sending of a Special Message to Foreign Minister Velayati and Dispatch of Prime Minister's Special Envoy)'

Citation:

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Summary:

A telegram from Charge d'Affaires Tanabe to the Foreign Minister in Japan regarding the American hostages in Lebanon and Special Envoy Nakayama's visit to Iran.

Original Language:

Japanese

Contents:

Original Scan
Translation - English

極秘

TWAハイジャックの解決のために、ラ議長が一定の(SOME)努力を行ったことは同議長が日本で述べたとおりであるが、乗客解放後4日以内にイスラエルにとらえられている700人を釈放するとの約束は果されていない。

いつたん釈放された300人も国境にてイスラエルにもどされてしまった。

米国のかかる約束違反をどう説明されるつもりなのか。

かかる約束不実行に対しレバノン人民が好意的に反応しないのは当然である。

(4) 安倍大臣のメッセージに対し、ザエ外相から、以上に述べたこと以外のコメントがあれば、日本側にお伝えする。

2. 中山特使

(1) 特使のイラン訪問について、自分としては前向きの見解を付して、上層部に報告したい。

なお、同特使はラ議長あての親書のみを携行されるとのことであるならば、ムサビ首相との会見手配は困難かも知れないが、御要望は関係者に伝達する。

(2) 特使の訪問を対外的に厳秘にすることについて異存はなく、むしろ従来の経緯から、日本側でプレスにもれることを懸念する。

万一、この訪問が、特に、人質問題及びイラン・イラク紛争等との関係で報道されることになれば、われわれとして(同訪問を)一切(CATEGORICALLY)否定せざるを得なくなろう。

この点くれぐれも念を押しておきたい。

(3) われわれとしては、この訪問はラ議長訪日のフォローアップと考えるのがよいと思う。

極秘

中山特使が如何なる問題を提起されても結構であるが、国際テロのみを強調されることは好ましくない。

これについてはラ議長自らイランの立場を既に明らかにしており、日本で述べた以上のことはないからである。

米に転電した。(了)

Number: R105011

Primary: Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Director-General

Sent: Iran, August 01, 1985, 14:05

Received: MOFA, August 01, 1985, 20:02

To: The Foreign Minister □
From: Charge d'Affaires Tanabe

Problem of the Release of the American Hostages (Sending of a Special Message to Foreign Minister Velayati and Dispatch of Prime Minister's Special Envoy)

No. 1347 Secret Top Urgent

(Limited Distribution)

Re: Your Telegram, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Director-General's Telegram No. 610 and Your Telegram, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Director-General's Joint Telegram No. 11021

On the 1st, I visited Second Political Bureau Director Ahani and, following your initial telegram, requested that he deliver the message in question and explained to him regarding the dispatch of Special Envoy Nakayama. The other side spoke as follows (Yoshihara accompanied me).

1. International Terrorism

(1) I will deliver Foreign Minister Abe's message immediately to Foreign Minister Velayati.

(2) Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani expressed Iran's clear position on international terrorism when he spoke with those involved on the occasion of his visit to Japan. Iran holds that, together with terrorism, we should denounce its roots.

Also, we should denounce terrorism not only in Lebanon, but wherever it occurs. Touching on the support of France and the United States for such terrorists as Rajavi, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani called on Japan to denounce such terrorism.

(3) Regarding the matter of the seven American hostages, we deny any involvement in it. On the other hand, we would like to point out how much the Lebanese people hate the United States.

Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani, as he said in Japan, did exert some effort for the resolution of the TWA hijacking, but the promise to free 700 persons held in Israel within four days after the release of the TWA passengers has not been kept.

Even the 300 persons temporarily released were taken back at the border to Israel. How does the United States explain breaking this promise?

Of course, the Lebanese people do not react favorably to the breaking of this promise.

(4) In regard to Minister Abe's message, and other than the above, we will convey to the Japanese side any comment from Foreign Minister Velayati.

2. Special Envoy Nakayama

(1) Regarding the visit to Iran, I have a positive outlook and would like to report it to the top officials.

In addition, if he is bringing only the personal letter [from Prime Minister Nakasone] for Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani, arranging an audience with Prime Minister Mousavi may be difficult. We will convey your wishes to those involved.

(2) We have no objection to keeping the Special Envoy's visit secret from the outside. Rather, based on previous experience, we are concerned with the Japanese side leaking it to the press.

In the unlikely event that this visit were to be reported, particularly in relation to the hostage problem or the Iran-Iraq conflict, we would have no choice but to categorically reject the visit.

I wish to emphasize this point.

(3) We think that it is good to think of this visit as a follow-up to Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani's visit to Japan.

Special Envoy Nakayama may raise any issue, but it would be undesirable for him to emphasize international terrorism alone.

Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani has already made clear Iran's position regarding this and will have nothing to say about it beyond what he said in Japan.

Passed to United States. (End)