

J-88

2 June 1980

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL VAUGHT

Subject: "Backburner"

- 1. (U) (S) Recommend your agreement with the basic thrust of the approach.
- 2. (U) (S) The actual definition of this is perception management. One of the problems with such programs is that the measures that are undertaken are liable to be so subtle that they are missed by the target audience. Therefore, recommend that one of the DOD actions be a withdrawal of the carrier task groups from the Indian Ocean.
- 3. (U) (S) As you have indicated, it is essential to bring in the hostage families at an early date. There is no reason that they cannot know almost every aspect of such a program. To ignore them is to risk their appeal to the press during a period of high domestic political sensitivity.

If we are able to coordinate the activities of the families, they can be of assistance by creating an illusion of well being among the hostages, releasing light, encouraging news items from hostage letters. Such assistance would support the second objective, page "3".

G 4. (U) I have asked LTC [redacted] to provide you a separate paper on "Backburner".

G [redacted]
Colonel, USA
Chief of Staff

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