



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 8, 1985

Mr. Denny Miles:
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Mr. Miles:

As promised during our last telephone conversation, I am enclosing background material for Governor Atiyeh which he may find useful during his upcoming visit to Damascus. I have included recent policy statements on both the Middle East and Latin America. I have also enclosed a recent publication on U.S.-Syrian relations, written by a former U.S. Ambassador to Syria, Talcott Seelye. While Seelye's views are not identical with those of the State Department in all cases, I found his analysis thought-provoking. I am sure the Governor, too, will find it to be of interest.

As I recall, we also discussed what message the Governor might take to Syrian officials he meets with. From our current standpoint, if the Governor is willing he may wish to thank Syrian officials he meets for Syrian help during the TWA hijacking, and express our hope that the Syrians will continue efforts to gain the release of the six remaining hostages in Lebanon. I should caution, however, that our discussions with a variety of groups on the hostage situation are fluid and sensitive. We hope the Governor will consult closely with our very able Ambassador in Damascus, William Eagleton, before making any statements -- public or private -- on the hostages.

In this regard, I am sure Ambassador Eagleton will want to meet the Governor while he is in Damascus. I would be happy to send a cable to the Ambassador with the Governor's arrival and departure dates and times, if you think it would be useful. The Ambassador and Embassy staff are, of course, willing to assist the Governor in any way they can.

Sincerely,

Douglas Greene
Country Officer for Syria