SUBJECT: TWA HIJACKING

REF:

STATE 147491 ROME 5517 BEIRUT 7217

1. DEPUTY DIRGEN POLITICAL AFFAIRS FONOFF TELLS US THAT IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION MORNING SEPT 1 ITALIAN CHARGÉ D'AMBISSADE DAMASCUS HAD REPORTED THAT SYRIANS WERE AGAIN STRONGLY SUGGESTING EXCHANGE OF TWO ISRAELI MEN FOR SYRIAN PILOTS IN ISRAELI HANDS.

2. FONOFF OFFICIAL AGAIN INSTRUCTED CHARGE TO MAKE CLEAR TO SYRIANS THAT THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY ISRAEL WOULD AGREE TO SUCH EXCHANGE. GPR.

STABLER