SUBJECT: TWA Hijacking

1. Syrian Government on morning December 5 permitted departure from Damascus of hijacked TWA aircraft as well as two Israeli passengers who had been detained since hijacking took place on August 29. TWA aircraft and passengers arrived Athens at 1532 hours local time and passengers departed half hour later on regular TWA flight to Tel Aviv.

2. Release of passengers and aircraft was pursuant to three-cornered agreement worked out through ICRC under which (1) Israeli passengers released from Damascus; (2) simultaneously, thirteen Syrians, including two Syrian MIG pilots, turned over to Syrian authorities
in Golan Heights; and (3) approximately 24 hours later, to be about 50 UAR nationals handed over to UARG in exchange for two Israeli Air Force pilots downed in action over Egypt.

GP-3

ACTING

RICHARDSON