



# IF I WERE PRESIDENT

Faxes to be Distributed During Policy Group Meeting

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**To: The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

**From: FBI Hostage Negotiation Field Team**

In the process of negotiation, the Somali pirates have announced their intention to execute one hostage each hour until the full ransom amount is paid by the United States government. They have given a timeline of 5 hours for a decision to be made before they will begin executing hostages. The pirates have taken the *Shackleton's Courage* into the port city of Eyl in the region of Puntland and our recon teams have not yet been able to approach the ship close enough to effectively assess the situation. Our team is working with the joint armed forces units to create a mission plan, but the clock is ticking. The situation is entering a critical hour where we must decide whether to call their bluff or move on the ship and rescue the hostages, regardless of the casualties we may inflict among the pirates. Before any action can be taken, the joint armed forces units need the go ahead order from the president and the National Security Council.

Our team will stand by on the hostage negotiation situation until we receive further word from your office or from the White House on the necessary course of action to take. A combined U.S. Navy SEAL and U.S. Army Ranger strike team is standing by between the *U.S.S. Winston S. Churchill* and the *U.S.S. Sampson*.

Sincerely,

*Emily Boland*

Special Agent Emily Boland  
F.B.I. Hostage Negotiation Team





**To: U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations**

**From: President of the U.N. Security Council, Ambassador Rajesh Nehru Shah of India**

First, allow me to express the concern of the entire United Nations General Assembly and the U.N. Security Council over the crisis facing your nation. We hope for the safe negotiation and return of both the *Shackleton's Courage* and the full crew of the ship. We encourage you to pursue the methods necessary for the recovery mission; however the Council would like to express certain concerns and encourage particular cautions.

While no doubt your primary mission is the recovery of the ship and her crew, the ongoing conflict in Somalia is one that must receive international attention. The recent coup d'état against President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and his government is an enormous step backwards in the progress that Somalia was moving towards. President Ahmed declined the acceptance of international food aid with the consultation of Secretary-General of the United Nations (Ambassador Pearl Gabriella Aguilar of the Federative Republic of Brazil), President of the United Nations General Assembly (Ambassador Theo-Ben Gurirab of the Republic of South Africa) and me. If the Somali people were not able to demonstrate progress in food production and sustainability within the last six months of 2018, the United Nations and the World Food Programme would commence the provision of food aid on a smaller scale once again for a limited term. The coup d'état was unexpected and unfortunate but President Ahmed was on par with a carefully calculated plan coordinated with the United Nations Development Programme in Somalia.

While the Security Council and General Assembly do not expect the United States to be the sole provider in this effort, we hope that the United States could lead the call to intervene and bring resolution to the conflict in Somalia. President Ahmed's efforts cannot go in vain. Under his leadership, Somalia has made more progress in a year than the nation has in the last twenty years. The hope of Somalia reaching a peaceful state where prosperity can ensue has been closer than it has in some time. The Council implores the United States to be the voice leading the call for intervention and aid in Somalia.

Again, your first priority is undoubtedly the safe recover of your ship and crew. But we ask that your decision be a two-fold decision that will have the full support of the U.N. Security Council, the majority of the U.N. General Assembly and Secretary-General Aguilar.

Respectfully,

*Rajesh Nehru Shah*

Rajesh Nehru Shah  
Ambassador of the Republic of India  
President of the U.N. Security Council

*Pearl Gabriella Aguilar*

Pearl Gabriella Aguilar  
Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil  
Secretary-General of the United Nations





**To: The Secretary of Defense and the Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

**From: General John G. Patton, United States Army,  
Commander, Joint U.S. Forces in the South China Sea**

In light of the situation in Somalia and in advance of my report on force readiness to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees next week, I feel that is pertinent to share the following information with you to aid the president in making a decision. I am joined in this memorandum by Admiral Stanley Albright, also of the United States Navy, chief of naval operations of the Joint U.S. Forces in the South China Sea. We are aware that the president feels a need to intervene in the rising conflict in Somalia in addition to safely recovering the crew and *Shackleton's Courage*. However, it is imperative that the United States avoids entering into an agreement of peacekeeping in Somalia. Having served in UNOSOM I and UNOSOM II and participated in the recovery missions for the downed Black Hawk helicopters and crew members, I can attest that this is conflict we must avoid. We are uncertain how long our presence here will be required. In order to properly maintain our current troop levels to both ensure our national security and achieve a defensible position here, we must not commit troops to this conflict in Somalia, which will be a long, drawn out and bloody affair.

Of course, the final decision rests with the president as commander-in-chief, but we must put forward our military opinion and expertise and implore you to not go down this road. Our troops will not be eager to re-enlist if they know that their deployment options include the South China Sea and now Somalia, in addition to ongoing threats in North Korea and Iran. Our force readiness will likely decrease by 20 - 30 %, which will drastically affect our ability to ensure our own national security, and effectively cooperate with N.A.T.O. should we go into Somalia. Our peacekeeping efforts in the South China Sea require the full attention of the Department of Defense.

We thank for your time and look forward to our respective appointments with you both upon our respective arrivals in Washington, D.C. next week.

Sincerely,

*George S. Patton*

George S. Patton  
General, U.S. Army  
Commanding General  
Joint N.A.T.O. Forces in the South China Sea

*Stanley R. Albright*

Stanley R. Albright  
Admiral, U.S. Army  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Joint N.A.T.O. Forces in the South China Sea





**To: Speaker of the House of Representatives**

**From: Valerie Minerovic, Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the House**

The emergency polling data you requested has arrived at our office. Polling questions were asked both of members of Congress as well as members of the general population from across the country. The data has been tabulated into raw percentages and is broken down in correspondence with the respective question as follows:

As a member of Congress, would you support a resolution engaging U.S. forces in the conflict in Somalia as a peacekeeping force until the government of President Ahmed stabilizes? Of the members of Congress polled:

Yes - 37 %  
No - 63 %

As a member of Congress, do you believe that some form of intervention needs to occur in Somalia? Of the members of Congress polled:

Yes - 72 %  
No - 28 %

As a citizen of the United States, are you aware of the current conflict in Somalia? Of the general population polled:

Yes - 93 %  
No - 7 %

As a citizen of the United States, do you believe that the United States should commit peacekeeping forces to stabilizing the conflict in Somalia and restoring the government of President Ahmed? Of the general population polled who were aware of the conflict in Somalia:

Yes - 57 %  
No - 43 %

As a citizen of the United States, do you believe that Somalia can grow, develop and prosper if their government stabilizes? Of the general population polled who were aware of the conflict in Somalia:

Yes - 53 %  
No - 47 %

Please contact our office if you have any further questions regarding the polling data, if you need any clarification on the results or if you would like to insert a new poll into the field.

*Valerie Minerovic*

Valerie Minerovic



**To: Secretary of the Treasury**

**From: Senior Staff, Department of the Treasury**

Based on our topics of discussion at the meeting prior to your departure for the White House, we have conducted the necessary research to update you on our current national economic situation. With unemployment figures going down and the national economy on the rise, it is theoretical to believe that we could support efforts in Somalia. Additionally, our federal budget deficit is decreasing thanks to the conservative fiscal efforts of the administration. However, these efforts should not be the primary efforts of the campaign. Our caution is becoming the sole bearer of the financial burden of bringing peace and stability to Somalia. If the president can endorse a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly and through the United Nations Security Council to aid in the effort, then the United States can commit to helping in the process. If the expectation is for the United States to be the torch bearer in the hopes that others will follow, our economy cannot support such efforts.

Many of our financial resources, as far as the military is concerned, are devoted to the peacekeeping efforts in the South China Sea. After conferring with contacts at the Department of Defense, the Pentagon will not support efforts to become involved. Contacts at the Department of State want to hear a voice that will encourage involvement but not total involvement. Both sides wish to see the hostages and ship recovered quickly. With these details in mind, we encourage you to advise the president to offer a level of commitment as an act of good faith, but leave the process to the United Nations on the condition that they rally a coalition of nations to work with the United States in this peacekeeping effort.

However, keep in mind that the message must be firm as stockholders on Wall Street are voicing concern over the United States engaged in conflict on three fronts with the ever-present possibility of having to become involved in the situations in Iran and North Korea. The senior staff will be standing by if you need further information relayed to you at the White House.

Sincerely,

*John Van Dyke*

*Mary Windsor*

*Cadence Appleton*

*Robert Cho*

John Van Dyke  
Chief of Staff

Mary Windsor  
Senior Policy Advisor

Cadence Appleton  
Senior Economic Advisor

Robert Cho  
Deputy Chief of Staff



**To: Secretary of State**

**From: Sir Jack G. Churchill II, KG, KBE, FRS  
Foreign Minister, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

My Dear Colleague and Friend,

First, allow me to express thoughts of concern on behalf of Her Majesty's government. Having had to negotiate for the release of a ship and her crew from the hands of these pirates, I empathize with your predicament and hope a resolution to the conflict is reached soon. If you are in need of the assistance of Her Majesty's government, I remind you that all you need to do is ask.

I am writing at the bequest of the Prime Minister and the other senior ministers of the House of Commons of the Parliament. We have received a confidential message from the President of the U.N. Security Council, Ambassador Rajesh Nehru Shah of the Republic of India encouraging the United Kingdom to support the United States in whatever avenue you pursue regarding the ongoing conflict in Somalia since the coup d'état against President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. The Prime Minister has encouraged me to reach out to you and to Jean-François la Châtelaine, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France. Additionally, Ambassador Shah is reaching out to your ambassador to the United Nations, our Ambassador Margaret Lancaster to the United Nations and France's Ambassador Marie-Rene L'échelle to the United Nations. It is believed that with the support of the President of the U.N. Security Council and the support of the permanent members, the United States, the United Kingdom and France, that the remainder of the Security Council could be persuaded to intervene in the situation in Somalia. The Prime Minister recognizes that the United States may be reluctant to become involved in the conflict out of fear that the United States will be the only one involved. As a former state within the Commonwealth and the Empire, the United Kingdom feels a level of responsibility to the Republic of Somalia and would like to pledge its commitment to working alongside the United States in bringing peace and stability to Somalia. However, the United Kingdom is also reluctant to become involved out of fear that we shall be the only one involved. We are confident that France will be inclined to join in the effort. The only necessary piece of the puzzle will be garnering the support of other nations within the Security Council and the General Assembly.

Again, our thoughts are with you as you work through this crisis and we hope for the safe recovery of both the crew onboard and the *Shackleton's Courage*. I look for your response or the response of your president to my prime minister.

On behalf of the government of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,

*Sir J. G. Churchill, K.G., K.B.E., F.R.S*

Sir Jack G. Churchill II, KG, KBE, FRS  
Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



**To: Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development**

**From: Dr. Philip Brooks, Director of the U.S. Peace Corps  
Dr. Amy Khan, Under-Secretary of the Department of Commerce  
Director of the International Trade Administration**

We were made aware that you were called to the White House this morning and would like to extend to you our non-partisan support as well as offer a further degree of support and possible assistance as you meet with the president and the other respective advisors this morning. Certainly, we support any decision to quickly and speedily recover the crew and the *Shackleton's Courage*. However, we further believe that we should look at this situation as a fortuitous opportunity to intervene in Somalia.

Somalia currently has no national record on any expenditure from its national GDP in education. Since the fall of the Barre regime and the start of the Somali Civil War in 1991, the United States has held no official diplomatic relations with the Republic of Somalia. In that light, volunteers in the U.S. Peace Corps and representatives of other aid agencies and offices have been unable to personally devote time and resources on the ground in Somalia. Furthermore, we find that Somalia having no current figures on their national unemployment and the fact that annual GDP per capita in Somalia is approximately \$600 (meaning that the average person lives on less than \$2 per day) to be an extremely difficult fact to face.

In light of those circumstances and the obviously deplorable conditions in Somalia, we want to offer our support to the United States Agency for International Development in bringing Somalia towards a peaceful solution and a prosperous state. We believe that if the people of Somalia can grow and develop in a progressive manner, then the rest of the nation will grow with the people. We encourage you to push the president towards a plan of international aid and assistance for the Republic of Somalia. The efforts at reform and rejuvenation of Somalia by President Ahmed must not go in vain. The trade balance in Somalia can grow if the people of Somalia are being educated and trained in fields that will be conducive to economic growth. We look forward to hearing from you following your meeting at the White House and look forward to working with you on rebuilding Somalia in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Philip Brooks*

Dr. Philip Brooks, Ph.D.  
Director  
United States Peace Corps

*Dr. Farrah Khan*

Dr. Farrah Khan, Ph.D.  
Undersecretary of the Department of Commerce  
Director of the International Trade Administration





**To: Director of National Intelligence**

**From: White House Situation Room**

This is an eyes only memorandum with a top secret security clearance in effect. While only two members (the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader) of the Gang of Four are present in these proceedings, it is important to remember procedurally that for covert military action to be utilized, the Gang of Four should be made aware of any intended operations. While there is no basis in statute for this procedure, it is always advisable to notify these individuals comprising the Gang of Four. The White House Situation Room has dispatched an eyes only memorandum to the Senate Majority Leader upon your standing orders, notifying that office of the potential possibility of covert military action being an option. Additionally, it is believed that both the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader are not in favor of full military intervention and aid into the Somali conflict involving President Ahmed, given the situation in the South China Sea. Communicating openly with those representatives of the Gang of Four would likely create a stronger alliance for a policy of non-intervention and give a quicker green light to a swift and covert operation to recover the crew of the *Shackleton's Courage* and the ship itself. After receiving the memorandum, should the Senate Majority Leader be effective in bringing the Legislative Group into agreement about the use of covert military action in this situation, the Senate Majority Leader will hand off the aforementioned memorandum to you during the Policy Group Meetings. The White House Situation Room is standing by with open lines to both the Department of Defense, the F.B.I. Hostage Negotiation Team and the offices of the members of the Gang of Four.

*Michelle Stevens*

Major Michelle Stevens  
United States Marine Corps  
Officer of the Watch  
White House Situation Room





**To: Senate Majority Leader**

**From: White House Situation Room**

This is an eyes only memorandum with a top secret security clearance in effect. This memorandum is additionally a courtesy notification from the White House Situation Room, in collaboration with the Office of National Intelligence, of the potential of covert military action being utilized in the stand-off situation with the Somali pirates and the hostages on board the *Shackleton's Courage*. As a member of the Gang of Four (along with the Speaker of the House, the House Majority Leader and the Chair of the Joint House and Senate Intelligence Committee), the White House Situation Room is acting on the standing orders of the Director of National Intelligence to notify one of the four members of the Gang of Four of the potential of covert military action with the intention that that member notify the remaining three members. Should you and the Legislative Group be in agreement with the employ of covert military action in this situation, please hand off this memorandum to the Director of National Intelligence. Should there not be agreement, hold onto this memorandum and voice your support of not fully militarily intervening into the Somali situation. Additionally, the White House Situation Room is standing by.

*Michelle Stevens*

Major Michelle Stevens  
United States Marine Corps  
Officer of the Watch  
White House Situation Room

