

## World and Nation

### Shultz says Iranian groups have strong ties to Beirut kidnappers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz said Thursday there are "strong ties" between Iran and the kidnappers of three Americans in Beirut, and he ruled out any deal to win their freedom by dropping prosecution of a Lebanese terrorist suspect.

Shultz said of the shadowy groups claiming responsibility for abducting three Americans and eight other foreigners in Beirut: "It is our basic information that with whatever names may emerge, they are to a substantial degree linked together."

Shultz's comments, in a satellite news conference with reporters in Europe, Israel and Japan, supported a White House official who said Wednesday on condition he not be identified that the latest round of kidnappings are the work of a cell within Hezbollah, or Party of God, a militant Moslem group with acknowledged ties to Iran.

Officials had said previously they were not sure who was behind the latest abductions.

Shultz's spokesman, meanwhile, brushed aside a threat by the group holding the three Americans to kill the captives if the United States retaliates with military force.

State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman said, "We hold all captors, whoever they may be, responsible for the safety and well-being of the hostages. Our position con-

cerning terrorism and hostage-taking is firm. We're not going to negotiate, make concessions, or give in to terrorists' demands."

As for whether the administration has decided to retaliate if the hostages are killed, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said,

*"It is our basic information that with whatever names may emerge they are, to a substantial degree, linked together."*

— United States Secretary of State George Shultz

"There are many options that are certainly available to us, but I would not comment on any of them, particularly that one."

The Pentagon said U.S. naval forces have bolstered their visibility in the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf as a show of support to "our friends in the region" in light of intense fighting between Iran and Iraq and the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

Chief Pentagon spokesman Robert Sims added that the ship movements are needed to ensure that President Reagan "has all options

available to him that he might choose."

Three American instructors at Beirut University College — Alann Steen, Robert Polhill and Jesse Turner — were among the captives taken this month after West German authorities arrested Mohammed Ali Hamadi, a Lebanese under indictment in the United States on charges of hijacking a Trans World Airlines jetliner to Beirut in 1985.

During the hijacking, Robert Stethem, a U.S. Navy diver, was killed, and 39 Americans were held hostage for 17 days.

The West German government still has not acted on a U.S. request for Hamadi's extradition and a reporter in London asked Shultz if the United States might consider dropping its demand for Hamadi if such a move could help win the release of the hostages.

The secretary, who has been critical of the administration's hostage negotiating efforts, responded with a sharp, "No."

"Our efforts and request for extradition stands," Shultz said. "I am certain it will continue to stand."

"If somebody is indicted and there is evidence of complicity in a dire crime, the hijacking of an airplane and the murder of one of its occupants and the virtual torture of others, in a civilized society we must follow through and punish such crimes," Shultz said.

### Moslem kidnappers say hostages will die if U.S. strikes Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Moslem kidnappers said Thursday they will kill four men seized last week-end if U.S. military forces attack Lebanon, and they released a picture of an American captive with two automatic rifles held to his head.

Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite remained out of sight for the 10th day. He is negotiating with the captors of two Americans held since 1985.

The hostages threatened with death Thursday are three Americans and an Indian abducted Saturday at Beirut University College.

In Washington, a Reagan administration official said: "We hold the captors responsible for the safety of the hostages. We call for the immediate release of all hostages. We do not speculate on any course of action the United States may or may not take."

Defense Department sources said 11 kidnappings in Moslem west Beirut in less than two weeks prompted the United States to hold the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy and its 11-

ship battle group in the Mediterranean Sea. They called the action precautionary and one said, "The current posture of our forces is not a threat to anyone."

The USS Nimitz, scheduled to relieve the Kennedy, also is in the Mediterranean.

Robert Sims, chief Pentagon spokesman, said the naval movements would "ensure that the president has all options available to him that he might choose." He would not say what military options President Reagan was considering but dismissed speculation that Navy ships were preparing to evacuate Americans.

The United States declared Lebanon off-limits to its citizens and told the estimated 1,500 Americans still here that their passports would be revoked if they did not leave within 30 days.

A group calling itself Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine made the death threat in a handwritten Arabic statement delivered to a news agency in west Beirut.

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