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Home Office Press
Cabinet Office
+ board. 28.2.82

HIJACK: SIX RELEASED

SIX PEOPLE, INCLUDING A BABY, WERE RELEASED THIS MORNING FROM THE HIJACKED TANZANIAN JET AT STANSTED AIRPORT. ESSEX CHIEF CONSTABLE MR ROBERT BUNYARD SAID IT WAS THOUGHT THAT NONE OF THEM - THE OTHERS WERE FOUR WOMEN AND A MAN - WERE HURT.

MR BUNYARD SAID THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE NOW BEING MADE FOR THE FOUR HIJACKERS TO TALK TO MR OSCAR KAMBONA, A FORMER TANZANIAN.. MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE.

HE SAID: "THIS IS THE FIRST POSITIVE STEP WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE SO FAR AFTER A VERY LENGTHY PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS. BUT WE HAVE AT LEAST GOT THESE PEOPLE OFF THE PLANE NOW."

MR BUNYARD SAID DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON NON-STOP IN AN EFFORT TO RELEASE THE REST OF THE HOSTAGES.

"WE ASKED THEM TO RELEASE SOME HOSTAGES AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH AND THIS THEY HAVE NOW DONE".

THERE ARE NOW BELIEVED TO BE 83 PASSENGERS AND CREW LEFT ON BOARD THE TANZANIAN BOEING 737, WHICH HAS BEEN PARKED ON THE TARMAC AT STANSTED FOR 22 HOURS.

THEY AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING HAS BEEN SEALED OFF BY POLICE

MORE THAN 100 REPORTERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE AT THE AIRPORT, BUT THEY ARE BEING KEPT WELL AWAY FROM THE HIJACKED PLANE.

P.A. 1233

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LOG ⁸19 1130 - 1152 SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 1982

1140 Kambona arrived at Stansted.

Six hostages and one baby released from the aircraft carrying placards.

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LOG 17 1030 - 1129 SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

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1109 Home Office reported:

Kambona now expected to arrive at Stansted at 1140.

2. The negotiators were about to send the terrorists the sheets of paper for which they had asked; they understood that the hostages to be released would carry a message for the Prime Minister.

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