

Rev. Jackson's "Moral Appeal" Assisted Lt. Robert Goodman's Release From Syria

Lt. Robert Goodman, 27, arrived Wednesday morning at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, as a result of Rev. Jesse Jackson's "moral appeal" to Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus — freeing the Navy airman from month-long Syrian captivity.

Goodman, Jackson and his delegation flew from Damascus to a U.S. air base near Frankfurt on a huge C-141 troop transport plane sent by President Reagan to bring him home.

The group transferred to an Air Force VC-137 jet, which left Tuesday night for Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, D.C.,

where they arrived early Wednesday morning — greeted by Goodman's family.

Goodman, wearing dress Navy uniform and toasting his freedom with champagne, said he was assaulted during the first four days of his captivity following the shooting down by the Syrians of his A-6 Intruder that was conducting a bombing raid on Syrian anti-aircraft positions in Lebanon.

"I got hit a couple of times," he told reporters on the transport plane. Goodman said he was assaulted "on the face and body with fists," and, "I got the impression it was more to scare than to

hurt me."

Following four days of intense diplomatic activity by Jackson — without the support of the Reagan administration — the plane lifted off from the Middle East with Jackson flashing a huge grin and two "V" signs for victory.

Goodman, strapped into his seat on the transport plane, was presented with the green baseball style cap of his Beirut bomber squadron and said "I just want to go home."

It said the move was "a contribution by Syria for the creation of an atmosphere which would help the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon" and

called on the United States to respond "by taking measures to end its involvement in Lebanon."

Goodman, Jackson and administration spokesmen all denied there were any strings attached to the release, and Jackson, a Baptist minister, said his aim was to "break the cycle of pain — an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

In a downtown Damascus news conference, Jackson urged that Goodman's release become the basis for new Middle East peace efforts. "I just wish that President Assad and President Reagan would have a meeting," he said.

Assad had not asked him to suggest a meeting to Reagan, Jackson said, "But we ought to use this moment to expand the ties of allies, of potential allies, in the area."

"The point is, this is a victory for everybody," he said.

Reagan, when asked if the release was a "peace gesture" by Syria, responded: "I'm not going to place any interpretation on it. I'm just pleased that this action was taken."

Reagan had refused to back the Jackson mission, and other administration officials said they believed the best way to win Goodman's freedom was through regular diplomatic channels.

Goodman, a native of Portsmouth, N.H., whose home base in Virginia Beach, Va., first appeared before reporters wearing a beige terrycloth shirt, blue pants and sneakers. He also had a blue ribbon pinned on his shirt, resembling the ribbons worn by Jackson as his symbol of solidarity with the bombardier-navigator.

After a big lunch, Goodman changed to a dark suit and tie and appeared by satellite on several American television programs.

During the first four days of his captivity, he said, "I was treated similar to a POW in Vietnam" but his later treatment was "exceptional — very good."

"They never tried to brainwash me or change me to their persuasion," Goodman said. "They just treated me with respect, and I think they were as much in awe of me as I was in the situation that I was in," he added.

Goodman, a Naval Academy graduate, was shot down over Lebanon Dec. 4 while participating in a U.S. air strike against Syrian-held positions. The Syrian anti-aircraft batteries

had been firing on U.S. reconnaissance flights.

The pilot of Goodman's A-6E attack jet, Lt. Mark Lange, was killed as he tried to parachute to safety. Another U.S. jet was also shot down, but its crewmen were recovered.

The Rev. Jack Mendelsohn of Boston, a member of the Jackson delegation, said arrangements for Goodman's release were worked out at a Tuesday morning meeting at the foreign ministry.



GOODMAN'S FAMILY - Maryilyn Goodman, mother of U.S. airman Robert Goodman, and her son Martin speak with Robert during an interview on NBC-TV's "Today" show.

Associated Press

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More than half USA mothers are working

Of the 30,834,952 mothers in the USA, 56.2 percent are employed or looking for work. The District of Columbia has the most employed mothers — 68 percent — followed by North Carolina with 65.3 percent. West Virginia ranks the lowest with 39.4 percent. (Story, 1A)

State	Working mothers	Total mothers	Percentage
Ala.	307,120	553,531	55.5
Alaska	33,825	60,393	56.0
Ariz.	191,258	357,463	53.5
Ark.	184,087	321,314	57.3
Calif.	1,728,360	3,053,676	56.6
Colo.	228,372	399,982	57.1
Conn.	231,010	408,609	56.5
Del.	47,612	81,871	58.1
D.C.	44,967	66,084	68.0
Fla.	678,095	1,148,444	59.0
Ga.	478,156	784,381	61.0
Hawaii	77,738	127,965	60.8
Idaho	73,215	136,466	53.7
Ill.	833,206	1,535,414	54.3
Ind.	442,855	784,786	56.4
Iowa	230,690	397,118	58.1
Kan.	187,271	320,697	58.4
Ky.	263,210	532,804	49.4
La.	301,230	602,938	50.0
Maine	86,862	155,608	55.8
Md.	350,552	579,440	60.5
Mass.	403,276	720,899	55.9
Mich.	675,845	1,307,214	51.7
Minn.	333,484	560,783	59.5
Miss.	210,155	357,452	58.8
Mo.	386,881	665,384	58.1
Mont.	60,140	110,590	54.4
Neb.	124,822	213,005	58.6
Nev.	66,015	103,564	63.7
N.H.	77,344	126,118	61.3
N.J.	515,925	976,885	52.8
N.M.	95,111	190,285	50.0
N.Y.	1,136,589	2,269,662	50.0
N.C.	538,866	825,674	65.3
N.D.	47,672	89,751	53.1
Ohio	779,614	1,507,332	51.7
Okla.	237,074	425,362	55.7
Ore.	192,613	351,795	54.8
Pa.	751,844	1,530,513	49.1
R.I.	70,889	120,766	58.7
S.C.	281,755	443,224	63.6
S.D.	54,751	94,888	57.7
Tenn.	375,178	646,871	58.0
Texas	1,130,269	2,024,193	55.8
Utah	104,685	217,645	48.1
Vt.	40,715	68,916	59.1
Va.	431,282	736,952	58.5
Wash.	300,810	555,046	54.2
W.Va.	107,938	274,171	39.4
Wis.	379,208	643,234	59.0
Wyo.	36,209	67,794	53.4
Total	16,946,650	30,634,952	56.2

Source: Donnelley Marketing Information Services.