

FIGHTING CHANCE

John 8: 31-32

Proverbs 22: 3

Newsletter Vol. I, No. 10

December 1987

HOSTAGE DEAL

When President Reagan took office in 1980 , he inherited a major hostage crisis, not in Iran or in Lebanon, but in the United States. There was also a serious hostage crisis in Europe.

In America, 230 million people were being held hostage to Soviet nuclear weapons - as were most of the people in Western Europe. The concomitant terrorist demand from the Soviet hostage takers was that the entire world submit to Soviet rule.

President Reagan's predecessors had threatened to kill the terrorists if they harmed the hostages. This, however, was not a believable threat.

First, with a first-strike strategy, a civil defense, and a growing strategic defense capability, most of the terrorists were beyond the reach of American retaliation. This was especially true of the top terrorist elite.

Second, what would the President do if only 50 million hostages were killed? Would he really sacrifice hundreds of millions of additional lives in order to avenge the first 50 million?

In 1980, President Reagan also faced a political challenge from those who had financed the terrorists. These multinational elitists, such as the members of the USA-USSR Trade and Economic Council, had enormous financial and political power within the United States.