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TELEGRAM NUMBER 880 OF 21 SEPTEMBER 1981

INFO WASHINGTON, BEIRUT, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, PARIS, JEDDA,  
AMMAN, CAIRO.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL, 21 SEPTEMBER

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

LEBANON

1. LORD CARRINGTON AND WALDHEIM HAD BOTH FOUND HAIG VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW ISRAELI OFFENSIVE AGAINST SOUTHERN LEBANON. WALDHEIM SAID THAT, PACE HAIG'S REMARKS TO LORD CARRINGTON EARLIER IN THE DAY, THE UN/US PLAN WAS NOT GOING WELL. THE ISRAELIS HAD DRAGGED THEIR FEET PENDING BEGIN'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON. THE PLO WOULD NOT IMPLEMENT THE FIRST PHASE UNTIL THEY KNEW WHAT THE ISRAELIS WERE DOING. URQUHART SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY SPOKEN TO GENERAL CALLAGHAN. IT WAS SIMPLY NOT TRUE THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE. THE ISRAELIS WERE READY TO LAUNCH A MAJOR OPERATION; THERE HAD BEEN SOME EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAD CONSIDERED LAUNCHING IT LAST WEEK. THE PLO WERE MAKE MATTERS WORSE BY ADVERTISING THEIR CALLS FOR REINFORCEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL WEAPONS, THEREBY PROVIDING THE ISRAELIS WITH AN EXCUSE TO ATTACK. URQUHART THOUGHT THAT BEGIN HAD CLEVERLY EXPLOITED THE AWACS ISSUE IN WASHINGTON TO OBSCURE ISRAELS POSITION IN OTHER AREAS.

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