

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 15

DESKBY

PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR MOBERLY  
MR BULLARD  
HD/NENAD  
HD/MED  
HD/UND  
HD/Sec. D  
HD/ ... ..

NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
CABINET OFFICE D10

HD/ ... ..  
... ..  
... ..

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

PUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

*MS*

*Prime Minister 2*  
*wh*  
*w/e*

GR 400  
CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY FCO 111330Z  
FROM TEL AVIV 111050Z JUN 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 234 OF 11 JUNE 1982  
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, PRIORITY AMMAN AND CAIRO.

NY TELNO 231: ISRAEL/LEBANON

1. WE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY TELEPHONE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ADVANCE WARNING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT 0900Z THAT ISRAELI FORCES WOULD UNILATERALLY CEASE FIRE IN LEBANON FROM 1000Z.

2. I WOULD JUDGE THAT ISRAELI DECISION STEMS FROM (A) AMERICAN PRESSURE, (B) FACT THAT IDF ONLY COMPLETED THE ORIGINALLY STATED OBJECTIVE OF THEIR OPERATION AGAINST THE PLO LATE YESTERDAY, WHEN REMAINING PLO UNITS IN SOUTH EAST LEBANON JOINED SYRIANS IN PULLING BACK BEYOND THE 40 KM BUFFER ZONE WHICH THE ISRAELIS ARE INTENT ON ESTABLISHING, (C) INCREASING COST OF OPERATIONS IN

INTENT ON ESTABLISHING, (C) INCREASING COST OF OPERATIONS IN MILITARY TERMS RELATIVE TO RESULTS, (D) REALISATION THAT SYRIANS WERE DETERMINED TO FIGHT IT OUT AND COULD NOT EASILY BE BUDGED.

3. ISRAEL GOVERNMENT EVIDENTLY CONCLUDED YESTERDAY THAT THE TIME LEFT FOR FURTHER MILITARY GAINS WAS RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT. AT MY RECEPTION LAST NIGHT TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY THE EDITOR OF HAARETZ TOLD US THAT SHAMIR HAD BRIEFED GROUP OF EDITORS EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT "THERE WILL BE A CEASEFIRE TONIGHT OR TOMORROW".

4. IT WAS ALSO BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT OVER THE LAST 48 HOURS THAT THE MAIN THRUST OF IDF ACTIVITY WAS NOW AGAINST SYRIAN FORCES RATHER THAN THE PLO. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ACTION AGAINST THE PLO, PARTICULARLY NEAR THE BORDER WITH ISRAEL, THERE ARE WIDESPREAD MISGIVINGS AT THE SCALE OF THIS WEEK'S OPERATION, WHICH FAR EXCEEDED THE ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED OBJECTIVE, AND IN PARTICULAR AT THE CONFLICT WITH SYRIA. SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN FIERCELY CRITICAL OF SHARON, AND THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE MORE AS THE DUST SETTLES.

MOBERLY  
BT

NNNN