

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16

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FM WASHINGTON 112120Z JUN 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2099 OF 11 JUNE
INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, TEL AVIV, BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS
INFO ROUTINE MODUK, AMMAN, CAIRO AND JEDDA

M I P T:

LEBANON

1. ALTHOUGH EAGLEBURGER MAY HAVE BEEN TALKING TO SOME EXTENT PERSONALLY, HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HAIG AND WAS REFLECTING HIS GENERAL VIEWS. THE SCALE OF THE ISRAELI ACTION HAS DISCONCERTED THE AMERICANS AND ITS TIMING HAS CAUGHT THEM AT A MOMENT WHEN IT IS MORE THAN USUALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO REACH COHERENT POLICY DECISIONS. THE IDEAS THAT EAGLEBURGER WAS SKETCHING OUT SMACK SLIGHTLY OF A DESPERATE EFFORT TO SALVAGE SOMETHING FROM THE MESS. BUT IT IS CERTAINLY DEPRESSING THAT THE AMERICANS SEEM AS

MORE THAN USUALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO REACH COHERENT POLICY DECISIONS. THE IDEAS THAT EAGLEBURGER WAS SKETCHING OUT SMACK SLIGHTLY OF A DESPERATE EFFORT TO SALVAGE SOMETHING FROM THE MESS, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY DEPRESSING THAT THE AMERICANS SEEM AS UNLIKELY AS EVER TO TRY TO PUT MORE EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON BEGIN. THEIR LONG TERM GOAL SEEMS TO BE A QUOTE LEBANON FOR THE LEBANESE UNQUOTE, WITHOUT SYRIAN OR ISRAELI FORCES ON ITS TERRITORY, OR A HEAVILY ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE. BUT THEY DO NOT CLAIM THAT THERE IS MUCH PROSPECT OF THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES GETTING BACK EFFECTIVE CONTROL. NOR IS IT CLEAR WHAT ENTHUSIASM THEY THINK THERE IS LIKELY TO BE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES FROM POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS FOR AN EXPANDED UNIFIL.

THOMAS

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