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LEBANON: Int Sit PES



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 November 1983

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T1748/83

Dear Mr. President,

I am grateful to you for letting me have your thoughts about the way forward in Lebanon and the Middle East following the criminal outrage against the United States and French members of the Multinational Peace Keeping Force in Lebanon on 24 October. I entirely share your view that we must spare no effort to generate a new momentum for peace in the Middle East. It is vital that the international community makes clear to the cowardly perpetrators of this bombing that we shall not be terrorised into giving up our responsibility to help bring stability to Lebanon and a just and lasting peace to the Middle East.

Geoffrey Howe and his colleagues from the United States, France and Italy met in Paris last week to discuss the way forward. You will have seen that we reaffirmed the commitment of the contributors to the Multinational Force to help the Lebanese Government restore stability and bring about national reconciliation. We shall be urging all the parties and their supporters outside Lebanon to adopt a constructive attitude at the talks in Geneva this week. In this connection I share your view that the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon is especially important. I also agree on the importance of not allowing events in Lebanon to distract attention from the urgent need to make progress on the wider Middle East peace process. I have put this point strongly to President Reagan; there was also agreement on it among the four Foreign Ministers in Paris.

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At this difficult time we should keep in touch and exchange ideas as the situation develops. I am glad that we are thinking on similar lines. Richard Luce is visiting Israel, Jordan and Egypt this week and will be glad to discuss how we can help the process forward. I hope therefore that it will be possible for you and him to talk over your ideas while he is in Cairo. I look forward to having a report about his talk with Your Excellency on his return.

Yours sincerely
Raymond D. [unclear]

His Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Said Mubarak.