

RESTRICTED

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ZZ BEIRUT
GRS 260
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FM FCO 161030Z MAR 82
TO FLASH BEIRUT

TELEGRAM NUMBER 68 OF 16 MARCH
YOUR TELNO 93 : MUHAMMAD MOKDAD

1. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO AMBASSADOR WHO SUGGESTS THAT APART FROM THOSE IN PARA 3 OF TUR AND SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS IT MIGHT BE WORTH CONTACTING MARWAN HAMADI, RENE MOAWWAD, THE SHIA MUFTI SHAMS AL-DIN AND THE JA'AFARI MUFTI KABALAN. AMIN GEMAYEL AS A CLOSE FRIEND OF MOKDAD MIGHT ALSO BE WORTH CONTACTING.
2. SECURITY DEPARTMENT WILL BE IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE ON REINFORCING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.
3. HMG'S POLICY ON KIDNAPPING IS CLEAR. WE CONDEMN ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM. WHERE HOSTAGES ARE INVOLVED GOVERNMENT POLICY IS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE SITUATION WITHOUT LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES BUT WITHOUT ACCEDING TO TERRORIST DEMANDS SINCE TO DO SO WOULD INCREASE THE TERRORIST MENACE. THERE CAN THEREFORE BE NO QUESTION OF PAYMENT OF RANSOM SHOULD DEMAND BE MADE TO US. NEWS DEPARTMENT ARE CONFIRMING DETAILS IN TUR IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS AND DRAWING ON LINE ABOVE.
4. WE AWAIT NEWS OF OUTCOME OF YOUR CONTACTS LOCALLY. IT WILL BE EASIER TO FORMULATE RESPONSE ONCE WE HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KIDNAPPING. WOULD IT BE WORTH BRINGING DAMASCUS INTO PLAY IF SYRIANS HAVE INFLUENCE?
5. AMBASSADOR ASKS THAT HIS PERSONAL SYMPATHY BE PASSED ON TO MOKDAD'S FAMILY. PLEASE ADD SYMPATHY AND CONCERN OF MOKDAD'S FRIENDS HERE. CONSUL IN HANOVER HAS BEEN IN TOUCH ON BEHALF OF MOKDAD'S SON. WE HAVE PASSED ON DETAILS IN TUR,
6. GRATEFUL FOR COMMENT IN DUE COURSE ON MOKDAD'S FAMILY AND HOW THEY ARE LIKELY TO REACT.

CARRINGTON

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