

IMMEDIATE

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PS/MR HURD
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MR MOBERLY
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FM WASHINGTON 202340Z JUL 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2500 OF 20 JULY

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, JEDDA, TUNIS, PARIS,
UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO SAVING TO BEIRUT

LEBANON: VISIT OF ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION
RESIDENT CLERK PLEASE ADVANCE TO PS/MR HURD

1. THE SAUDI AND SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MET SHULTZ AND PRESIDENT REAGAN TOGETHER ON 19 AND 20 JULY RESPECTIVELY. BOTH MINISTERS HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH SHULTZ AND ON THE HILL. KHALID EL HASSAN (PLO), TRAVELLING ON A KUWAITI DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, IS IN WASHINGTON AS AN ADVISER TO THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION, BUT HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY ANY AMERICAN OFFICIAL.

2. IN A BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING AT THE WHITE HOUSE AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THAT REAGAN HAD DISCUSSED WITH THE TWO MINISTERS NEW IDEAS WHICH MIGHT FORM THE BASIS OF POSSIBLE MOVEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEY GAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS. THE OFFICIALS EMPHASISED THAT THE US REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE CAMP DAVID PROCESS AND THAT POLICY ON TALKING TO THE PLO WAS UNCHANGED.

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3. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE TOLD US THAT THE TALKS WENT REASONABLY WELL BUT, AS THE AMERICANS HAD EXPECTED, THEY DID NOT GET VERY FAR. KHADDAM WAS ADAMANT THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD ACCEPT THE PLO LEADERSHIP BUT NOT THE QUOTE FIGHTERS UNQUOTE, WHOM HE EQUATED WITH ALL PALESTINIANS. THE ARAB SIDE HAD RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PLO MIGHT MOVE FROM BEIRUT TO NORTH LEBANON AS AN QUOTE INTERIM UNQUOTE MEASURE. THE AMERICANS SAID THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WERE OPPOSED TO THIS IDEA. IT WAS A NON STARTER UNLESS THE ULTIMATE DESTINATIONS FOR THE PLO WERE FIRST AGREED. SAUD AND KHADDAM AGREED TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH THEIR ARAB COLLEAGUES ON THE DESTINATION PROBLEM.

4. ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE TALK'S FOCUSSED ESSENTIALLY ON THE IMMEDIATE WEST BEIRUT ISSUE, THOUGH THE AMERICANS SAID THAT THEY INTENDED, ONCE THAT WAS OUT OF THE WAY, TO TRY TO TACKLE THE BASIC PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL, REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY KHALID EL HASSAN, THAT THE PLO SHOULD ACCEPT AN AMENDED VERSION OF SCR 242 ACKNOWLEDGING THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

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