

GR 300  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 041230Z (MODUK)  
FROM TEL AVIV 041230Z FEB 83  
TO IMMEDIATE MODUK  
TELNO 041030Z FEBRUARY 1983  
INFO IMMEDIATE FCO, BEIRUT, PRIORITY WASHINGTON.  
MODUK FOR DS11 FROM AA

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1. THE ATTACHE CORPS FAREWELL PARTY FOR UKDA AND TWO OTHER DEPARTING ATTACHES WAS HELD LAST NIGHT, 3 FEBRUARY. THESE FUNCTIONS ARE USUALLY ATTENDED BY SAGI (DM1), ALTAR (HD OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS) AND MOR (FLO) PLUS OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. IN THE EVENT ALL WERE NOTABLE BY THEIR ABSENCE.
2. ALTAR PHONED UKDA THIS MORNING TO APOLOGISE FOR THESE ABSENCES. SEEMINGLY ALL HAD BEEN SUMMONED AT SHORT NOTICE, FIRST BY CHIEF OF STAFF, THEN BY DEFENCE MINISTER. THE SUBJECT OF THESE URGENT DISCUSSIONS WAS FREQUENT AND MOUNTING CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN IDF AND MULTY NATIONAL FORCE, PARTICULARLY THE US CONTINGENT. ALTAR LEFT BOUCHER WITH THE IMPRESSION OF SENSE OF CRISIS.
3. ALTAR GAVE NO INDICATION OF DECISIONS MADE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ISRAELIS HAVE DECIDED TO BACK OFF AND AVOID POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER CLASHES. BUT THEY SEEM TO HAVE PERSUADED THEMSELVES THAT IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO ARE INITIATING THE TROUBLE, AND IT IS NOT SHARON'S STYLE TO SHIRK CONFRONTATION. IN ANY CASE, IF THE IDF GENUINELY BELIEVE THAT PLO AND OTHER QUOTE TERRORISTS UNQUOTE ARE GAINING SANCTUARY BEHIND MNF, THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER AND MORE AGGRESSIVE INCIDENTS CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED (THE ISRAELIS ALLEGE THAT PLO HAVE BEEN INFILTRATING NEAR THE BEIRUT UNIVERSITY SCIENCE FACULTY BUILDING AND THAT, INSTEAD OF STOPPING THEM THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SENDING FOR THE LEBANESE ARMY, WHO ARRIVE FAR TOO LATE). THIS COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR BRITISH CONTINGENT ARRIVING 8 FEBRUARY.
4. IDF SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT ON THE MORNING OF 3 FEBRUARY IDF COMMANDER OF BEIRUT AREA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF US EMBASSY HAD AGREED THAT:-
  - A) THE OLD RAILROAD TRACK CONSTITUTED THE DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN IDF FORCES AND THE MNF SEMICOLON
  - B) THE ZONES WERE CLEARLY DEMARCATED AND WOULD BE MARKED IN THE FIELD BY COLOURED BARRELS TO PREVENT ANY FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDING.

PRENDERGAST

MIDDLE EAST

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