

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

16

PS (8)
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
HD/MED
HD/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10

HD/... ..

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

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PUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

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IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

GRS 410
CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON 050045Z FEB 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 308 OF 5 FEBRUARY
AND TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT
INFO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV, MODUK, ROUTINE AMMAN, DAMASCUS AND CBFC
BEIRUT TELNO 60: MULTINATIONAL FORCE

1. WE ASKED MS JONES (STATE DEPARTMENT) THIS EVENING TO EXPLAIN
THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS OVER
THE AREA OF OPERATIONS OF THE U S CONTINGENT.

2. AS THE U S EMBASSY TOLD SIR D ROBERTS THERE IS NO WRITTEN
AGREEMENT. THERE IS A VERBAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS
AND AMERICANS BUT NOT THE MNF AS A WHOLE.

3. THIS STIPULATES A QUOTE NO GO UNQUOTE LINE (RATHER THAN A
DEMARICATION LINE) RUNNING FROM THE KHALDE TRIANGLE NORTH ALONG THE
RAILWAY TRACK, EAST AND NORTH ROUND THE SCIENCE FACULTY BUILDING

3. THIS STIPULATES A QUOTE NO GO UNQUOTE LINE (RATHER THAN A DEMARCATION LINE) RUNNING FROM THE KHALDE TRIANGLE NORTH ALONG THE RAILWAY TRACK, EAST AND NORTH ROUND THE SCIENCE FACULTY BUILDING AND WEST ON A LINE APPROXIMATELY 200 METRES NORTH OF AND PARALLEL TO THE SCIENCE FACULTY PERIMETER ROAD TO THE RAILWAY TRACK AT THE JUNCTION OF THE ITALIAN AND AMERICAN SECTORS. THE PERIMETER ROAD MAY BE USED BY THE LAF AND MNF BUT NOT THE IDF. THE STATE DEPARTMENT DO NOT HAVE COORDINATES OF THE LINE AROUND THE SCIENCE FACULTY WHICH HAS NOW BEEN MARKED BY COLOURED BARRELS. THEY ARE NOT SURE, INCIDENTALLY, WHETHER THEY ARE CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT THE RAILWAY FORMS THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE ITALIAN SECTOR.

4. THE AMERICANS CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN (AS THEY HAVE SINCE SEPTEMBER) THAT THE ENTIRE AREA BETWEEN THE OLD SIDON ROAD AND THE RAILWAY IS PROPERLY UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE U S CONTINGENT. BUT IN PRACTICE THE U S MARINES HAVE NOT PATROLLED IN THIS AREA AND HAVE NO PLANS TO DO SO. THE ISRAELIS HAVE NEVER ACCEPTED THE AMERICAN POSITION AND BEGAN THEMSELVES TO PATROL UP TO THE RAILWAY IN RESPONSE TO INCREASED QUOTE TERRORIST UNQUOTE ACTIVITY LAST MONTH. ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS DO NOT RECOGNISE THE IDF'S RIGHT TO PATROL THIS AREA THEY HAVE TACITLY ACQUIESCED IN IT. THE ISSUE REMAINS IN DISPUTE.

5. THE U S MARINES HAVE NOT PATROLLED ALONG THE OLD SIDON ROAD, BUT HAVE SENT PATROLS ACROSS IT IN THE DIRECTION OF BAABDA. ISRAELI USE OF THE ROAD FOR SUPPLY AND RECCE PURPOSES HAS INCREASED RATHER THAN DIMINISHED AS THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN LED TO EXPECT.

6. MS JONES CONCEDED THAT THE POSITION WAS UNSATISFACTORY. HER PERSONAL VIEW (PLEASE PROTECT) WAS THAT THE INCIDENT ON 2 FEBRUARY WAS A DELIBERATE PROVOCATION BY THE IDF, THOUGH SHE DID NOT KNOW AT WHAT LEVEL IT HAD BEEN AUTHORISED. SHE NOTED THAT GENERAL DRORI HAD GIVEN THE AMERICANS AN ASSURANCE ON 28 JANUARY THAT THE U S MARINES AT THE SCIENCE FACULTY WOULD NOT BE TROUBLED BY THE IDF, THOUGH HE HAD INSISTED THAT THE LATTER WOULD CONTINUE TO PATROL IN THE DISPUTED AREA.

WRIGHT

NNNN