

MIDDLE EAST

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

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 TELEGRAM NUMBER 430 OF 22 FEBRUARY
 INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT, TEL AVIV, AMMAN AND CAIRO
 INFO PRIORITY OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS, UKMIS NEW YORK

MIPT (NOT TO ALL): PRESIDENT REAGAN ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TODAY TO THE AMERICAN LEGION INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST:

QUOTE

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE ARE WORKING TO CONVINCE THE PEOPLES OF THE AREA THAT LASTING PEACE AND SECURITY CAN ONLY COME THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS, NOT THE USE OF ARMED FORCE. A SECURE AND LASTING PEACE FOR ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBOURS, INCLUDING A RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM THAT SATISFIES THAT PEOPLE'S LEGITIMATE RIGHTS IS A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. WE HAVE

RIGHTS, IS A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. WE HAVE LAUNCHED A NEW INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE AND BROADEN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS BEGUN AT CAMP DAVID. THAT PROCESS FULFILLED THE PRINCIPLE OF EXCHANGING OCCUPIED TERRITORY FOR PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. TODAY, I REPEAT MY CALL TO THE ARAB WORLD TO ACCEPT THE REALITY OF ISRAEL AND THE REALITY THAT PEACE AND JUSTICE ARE TO BE GAINED ONLY THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATION. KING HUSSEIN SHOULD BE SUPPORTED IN HIS EFFORT TO BRING TOGETHER A JOINT JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN TEAM TO NEGOTIATE THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK, GAZA AND JERUSALEM.

WE ALSO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM LEBANON SO THAT COUNTRY CAN ONCE AGAIN BE AN INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN STATE. WE CALL ON SYRIA, THE PLO AND ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM LEBANON IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. A CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF LEBANON BY THESE FORCES CAN ONLY SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THOSE WHO WISH TO UNDERMINE THE CAUSE OF PEACE. THIS ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL'S NORTHERN BORDERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ISRAELI ARMY. TRUE PEACE CAN ONLY EVOLVE THROUGH FREELY-NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS, NOT SOLUTIONS IMPOSED BY FORCE. UNQUOTE

WRIGHT

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PP JERUSALEM