

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY

17
EYES ONLY

DELIVER IN A SEALED ENVELOPE TO CHUCK TYSON
MARKED "TO BE OPENED ONLY BY JUDGE CLARK."
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1982

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Judge Clark

Subject: Letter From the President to Prime
Minister Begin

Attached is a draft letter the President might
consider sending to Prime Minister Begin. It
tracks with the earlier analysis I sent to you
this morning.

Judge Clark, I believe this letter must not
be perceived to have come from Washington. In
saying that, I believe it is entirely faithful
to the views of all here. But for reasons you
will understand, I believe it must be seen
as the President's idea. Needless to say of
course, he must agree with the position it
reflects. But I recommend that you discuss it
with him and no one else.

Very Respectfully

Bud

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M437/1 # 135337

BY *RW* NARA DATE 6/23/15

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

Handwritten: This is wrong in B's perception a tragedy rather than a triumph

~~TOP SECRET~~

SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY

EYES ONLY

Handwritten: Bill - This should not be sent! Al. 135338

Dear Menachem

Since receiving your response to my letter of last evening, I have taken time to consider the total realm of circumstances facing us both as together we seek to end the violence, the continuation of which can only worsen the tragedy which now consumes both Israel and Lebanon. I know you share my view that we must end this war and we must do so promptly. This is a time, my friend, for sobriety and vision. Within this context, I must say I am troubled by the apparent evolution in Israel's thinking over the course of the past 48 hours. —

In this regard I refer to your ^{originally -} stated objective of ridding the people of northern Israel of the menace of terrorist attacks. While we apparently differ that this objective could have been pursued by peaceful means, there is agreement on the objective. Now, however, your government appears to have established a broader objective involving the establishment of control over additional territory, perhaps thereby to influence the ultimate disposition of political elements within Lebanon. These matters, it seems to me, are not subject to resolution by force of arms and must be negotiated to have any hope of enduring stability.

In addition, it appears that you have adopted a broader objective with respect to the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Again, we can and must address this matter and indeed this was an important element of Ambassador Habib's broader mission. But to insist on introducing this matter -- for example, as it relates to the character of Syrian forces in the Bekaa

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NLRR M43711 #133338

BY Rlw NARA DATE 6/25/05

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EYES ONLY 19

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Valley -- as a precondition to the establishment of a ceasefire is, I believe, to ask too much. To do so promises to engender another cycle of violence bringing with it a heightened opportunity for Soviet and other third party interference and perhaps intervention. I refer here to this morning's evidence of elevated READINESS of Soviet airborne forces and to their movement to the airlift associated with their deployment. I am sure that you appreciate the short and long-term implications of a greater Soviet involvement in the area -- an outcome both of us surely must seek to avoid.

With all of these considerations in mind, Mr. ~~Prime~~
~~Minister~~ MENACHEM, I am writing to express my firm view that a ceasefire, accompanied by a commitment by all parties to complete the immediate withdrawal of their forces to positions on opposite sides of a 40 km line (measured northward from and parallel to Israel's border with Lebanon) within a time certain, has become an absolute and urgent imperative. Therefore, I again call upon you to agree to such an arrangement at a mutually agreed time, for example at 6:00 a.m. (local time) on June 11. In making this proposal, I am fully mindful of the requirement to address the broader issues you have raised; specifically, the future Syrian presence in Lebanon and the longer term requirement to establish a truly effective security force within the 40 km zone so that the withdrawal of Israeli forces can be accomplished with the confidence that the threat you have endured for so long will be removed.

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EYES ONLY

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Again, ^{MENACHEM}~~Mr. Prime Minister~~, I send this letter with my personal reaffirmation of commitment to Israel's security in the broadest sense and in the deep conviction that that security can only be harmed by continued warfare.

Warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Ron

Ronald Reagan

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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CAS 4/25/2012
File Folder ISRAEL: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN (8290376-8290579) **FOIA**
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| ID | Doc Type | Document Description | No of Pages | Doc Date | Restrictions |
|--------|--------------|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 135345 | CABLE | TOSEC 080155 | 2 | 6/6/1982 | B1 |
| 135346 | LETTER | SAME TEXT AS 135343 R 6/23/2015 M437/1 | 2 | 6/6/1982 | B1 |
| 135343 | LETTER | FROM MOSHE ARENS TRANSMITTING TEXT OF LETTER FROM PM BEGIN TO RR R 6/23/2015 M437/1 | 2 | 6/6/1982 | B1 |
| 135344 | LETTER | COPY OF 135343 R 6/23/2015 M437/1 | 2 | 6/6/1982 | B1 |
| 135336 | MEMO | WILLIAM CLARK TO RR RE LETTER TO YOU FROM PM BEGIN | 1 | ND | B1 |
| 135337 | NOTE | BUD TO JUDGE CLARK RE LETTER FROM RR TO PM BEGIN R 6/23/2015 M437/1 | 1 | 6/10/1982 | B1 |
| 135338 | DRAFT LETTER | RR TO BEGIN R 6/23/2015 M437/1 | 3 | ND | B1 |
| 135347 | LETTER | FROM MOSHE ARENS TRANSMITTING A LETTER FROM BEGIN TO RR | 1 | 6/26/1982 | B1 |
| 135339 | NOTE | BUD MCFARLANE TO CLARK RE LETTER FROM RR TO BEGIN | 1 | 7/6/1982 | B1 |

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| 135340 | DRAFT LETTER | RR TO BEGIN | 2 | ND | B1 |
| 135348 | CABLE | STATE 141678 | 4 | 5/23/1982 | B1 |
| 135341 | DRAFT LETTER | RR TO BEGIN | 2 | 5/20/1982 | B1 |
| 135349 | MEMO | L. PAUL BREMER TO CLARK RE 5/24 MESSAGE FROM PM BEGIN | 1 | 5/25/1982 | B1 |
| 135350 | LETTER | FROM MOSHE ARENS TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE FROM PM BEGIN TO RR | 2 | 5/24/1982 | B1 |
| 135342 | DRAFT LETTER | RR TO BEGIN | 2 | 8/30/1982 | B1 |
| 135351 | CABLE | RE AMERICAN INITIATIVE: INFORMING ISRAEL | 6 | 8/30/1982 | B1 |

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