

Prime Minister
to see
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Subs the
12/7

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR MOBERLY
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
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IMMEDIATE

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PRESIDENTIAL CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

ECLIPSE

FM DAMASCUS 121030Z JUL 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 193 OF 12 JULY
INFO PRIORITY AMMAN, TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON, JEDDA
INFO ROUTINE CAIRO, UKMIS NEW YORK AND PARIS.

MY TELNO 192: LEBANON.

1. I UNDERSTAND FROM MY US COLLEAGUE THAT DRAPER DID NOT SUCCEED IN PERSUADING THE SYRIANS TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS ABOUT ACCEPTING PALESTINIAN COMBATANTS (THOUGH THEY DO NOT OBJECT TO ACCOMMODATING THE LEADERSHIP). THE PROBLEM OF WHERE THE LATTER ARE TO GO REMAINED IN PAGANELLI'S VIEW THE CRUX OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS ALSO, ACCORDING TO THE AMERICANS HERE, THE PROBLEM OF IDENTIFYING THE PALESTINIANS EVEN IF AGREEMENT WERE REACHED ON EVACUTATING THEM.

2. PAGANELLI (PLEASE PROTECT) WAS FRANKLY CRITICAL OF US POLICIES LEADING UP TO THE PRESENT SITUATION, BUT HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT THE POSITION WOULD BE IMPROVED IF THE PLO WERE TO MAKE THE BEST OF A BAD JOB BY SOME MOVE TANTAMOUNT TO RECOGNISING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT PSYCHOLOGICALLY THIS WOULD BE QUITE IMPOSSIBLE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT PERHAPS THE BOOT WAS ON THE OTHER FOOT AND NOW WAS THE TIME FOR THE AMERICANS TO TALK

EXIST. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT PSYCHOLOGICALLY THIS WOULD BE QUITE IMPOSSIBLE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT PERHAPS THE BOOT WAS ON THE OTHER FOOT AND NOW WAS THE TIME FOR THE AMERICANS TO TALK TO THE PLO. PAGANELLI DID NOT DISAGREE IN PRINCIPLE BUT NATURALLY POINTED OUT THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES. I UNDERSTAND THESE, BUT WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE AMERICANS COULD REASONABLY SAY TO THE ISRAELIS THAT SINCE BOTH ISRAELIS AND AMERICANS WANTED THE PLO OUT OF BEIRUT AND THE COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS TO THIS END WERE BEING EVEN FURHTER COMPLICATED BY AMERICAN INABILITY TO TALK DIRECT TO THE PALESTINIANS IT WAS IN BOTH THEIR INTERESTS THAT THEY SHOULD DO SO.

3. THE SYRIANS HAVE WARNED THE AMERICANS TO EXPECT A DEMONSTRATION BY "ARAB WRITERS" OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY ON 13 JULY.

LUCAS

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