

GRS 210

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FM WASHINGTON 132343Z JUL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2415 OF 13 JULY

INFO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, ROUTINE AMMAN, JEDDA, CAIRO,
UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS, TUNIS

MY TELNO 2404: LEBANON

1. THE SYRIANS CONFIRMED TODAY TO THE U S AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS THEIR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PLO PERSONNEL FROM BEIRUT. THE AMERICANS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO PROCEED. THE OPTIONS THEY ARE CONSIDERING, NONE OF THEM VERY PROMISING, INCLUDE FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE SYRIANS, ANOTHER APPROACH TO MUBARAK AND A MESSAGE TO THE ARAB LEAGUE ASKING THEM TO PRODUCE A SOLUTION. MEANWHILE THE AMERICANS ARE CONTINUING TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO RESTRAIN THE ISRAELIS FROM PRECIPITATE ACTION.

2. THE PRESIDENT IS TO BRIEF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THIS EVENING ON HIS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO SEND U S TROOPS TO BEIRUT AS PART OF A MULTINATIONAL PEACE KEEPING FORCE. THE ROLE OF SUCH U S FORCES IS STILL NOT CLEAR. KEMP (NSC) TOLD US TODAY, IN CONTRAST TO WEINBERGER'S REMARKS ON 11 JULY, THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD PREFER THEIR FORCES TO ARRIVE AFTER THE PLO HAD LEFT BEIRUT. THERE WAS SOME FLEXIBILITY OVER TIMING: THE FRENCH CONTINGENT MIGHT BE IN PLACE BEFORE AMERICAN FORCES ARRIVED.

3. EAGLEBURGER TOLD ME THIS EVENING THAT THE SYRIAN REFUSAL HAD CHANGED THINGS FOR THE WORSE. HE THOUGHT QUOTE THE ROOF WOULD CAVE IN UNQUOTE BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK: THE ISRAELIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY MOVE INTO WEST BEIRUT, BUT WOULD CERTAINLY RESUME THEIR SHELLING.

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