

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES # 22

PS (6)  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR MOBERLY  
SIR J BULLARD  
HD/NENAD  
HD/MED  
HD/UND  
HD/SEC DEPT  
HD/... ..

NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
CABINET OFFICE D10

/HD/CONSULAR DEPT

... ..  
... ..

IMMEDIATE

PUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
RESIDENT CLERK

C O N F I D E N T I A L  
FM BEIRUT 171310Z JULY 82  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 426 OF 17 JULY  
INFO USUAL POSTS

MY TELNO. 412 OF 14 JULY: LEBANON

1. I PASSED HABIB'S MESSAGE TO SAEB SALAM.
2. THIS MORNING I SAW THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR AND DRAPER. THEY SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THEY HAD REACHED AN IMPASSE. SYRIA'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE PALESTINIANS WAS CATEGORICAL. THEY WOULD APPARENTLY ACCEPT THE LEADERSHIP AND OFFICERS, A FEW HUNDRED ALL TOLD, BUT NOT THE MAIN BODY. ARAFAT HAD NOT YET SENT THE LETTER ASKING THE SYRIANS TO GIVE THEM SANCTUARY.
3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY WERE EXPLORING THE OPTION OF SENDING THE PALESTINIANS IN PENNY PACKETS TO THOSE ARAB STATES WHICH WOULD ACCEPT THEM. DRAPER THOUGHT THAT IN THE LAST RESORT THEY MIGHT HAVE TO FALL BACK ON THE NORTH BEKA'A SOLUTION ALTHOUGH IT BRISTLED WITH DIFFICULTIES.

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4. MEANWHILE THE ISRAELIS WERE IMPATIENT. THEY HAD TIGHTENED  
THEIR SIEGE OF WEST BEIRUT AND WERE STILL HOLDING UP ESSENTIAL FOOD  
-STUFFS AND EVEN RED CROSS SUPPLIES.

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ROBERTS...

NNNN

SENT AT 16///17/1411Z JAC