

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

17

Lebanon

IMMEDIATE

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR MOBERLY
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
HD/MED
HD/UND
HD/SEC DEPT
HD/NAD

NO 10 ~~DOWNING~~ STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10

HD/CONSULAR DEPT
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IMMEDIATE

PUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

C O N F I D E N T I A L

FM WASHINGTON 222335Z JUL 82

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2527 OF 22 JULY

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, JEDDA, AMMAN, TUNIS, BEIRUT,
PARIS, UKMIS NEW YORK AND MODUK

MY TELNO 2512: LEBANON

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1. IN A BRIEFING FOR WESTERN DIPLOMATS TODAY CLUVERIUS (STATE DEPARTMENT) SAID THAT BOTH SAUD AND KHADDAM HAD EMPHASISED THAT THE ARABS WOULD FULFIL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF PLO PERSONNEL IN BEIRUT. IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT HABIB SHOULD WORK WITH SAUD AND KHADDAM ON SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ONWARD MOVEMENT OF PLO PERSONNEL. HABIB WOULD BE TRAVELLING TO DAMASCUS TODAY TO DISCUSS THIS.

2. CLUVERIUS SAID THAT THE ONLY FIRM OFFER SO FAR WAS THAT FROM SYRIA TO ACCEPT THE PLO LEADERSHIP AND THEIR ENTOURAGE, TOTALLING ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE. THE POSSIBILITY OF JORDAN AND EGYPT ACCEPTING OTHER PLO PERSONNEL HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. IRAQ HAD ALSO BEEN RAISED BUT WAS NOT CONSIDERED A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY AT PRESENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE TOLD US SEPARATELY THAT THE JORDANIANS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT JORDANIAN PASSPORT HOLDERS FROM BEIRUT AND THAT THE JORDANIANS THEMSELVES ESTIMATE THAT THESE MAY INCLUDE AS MANY AS

~~TO ACCEPT JORDANIAN PASSPORT HOLDERS FROM BEIRUT AND THAT THE JORDANIANS THEMSELVES ESTIMATE THAT THESE MAY INCLUDE AS MANY AS 2,500 OF THE PLO GUERRILLAS THERE. THE AMERICANS HOPE THAT THE JORDANIANS WILL BE PREPARED TO HELP PERSUADE THE EGYPTIANS TO ACCEPT THE GREATER PART OF THE REMAINDER. KING HUSSEIN HAS AGREED TO SEE HABIB IN LONDON.~~

3. CLUVERIUS SAID THAT TODAY'S FIGHTING WAS THE PREDICTABLE ISRAELI REACTION TO REPEATED INCIDENTS RESULTING FROM THE INFILTRATION OF PALESTINIANS MAINLY DFLB, THROUGH THE SYRIAN LINES IN THE BEQA'A. THE AMERICANS HAD ALREADY WARNED THE SYRIANS AGAINST ALLOWING THIS.

4. CLUVERIUS CONFIRMED THAT THE AMERICANS KNEW OF THE REPORTS THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD CONFISCATED SOME LEBANESE ARMY WEAPONS (YOUR TELNO 1355) AND THAT THEY HAD TAKEN THE MATTER UP WITH THE ISRAELIS. NO REPLY HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY SAY THAT THERE WAS IN FACT ONLY ONE SUCH INCIDENT AND THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY UNIT CONCERNED HAD BEEN BEHAVING IN A LAWLESS MANNER. NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELIS, THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN QUOTE ANGRY UNQUOTE ABOUT IT.

5. THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCED HERE YESTERDAY THAT ITALY WAS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN BEIRUT PROVIDED THAT ALL THE PARTIES AGREED AND THAT THERE WAS SOME KIND OF U.N. LINKAGE. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY THE LATTER POINT WAS LEFT DELIBERATELY VAGUE.

HENDERSON

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