

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 17

ADVANCE COPY
IMMEDIATE

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS

~~SIR J BERRY~~

MR MOBERLY

~~SIR J BULLARD~~ MR GOODISON

HD/NENAD

HD/MED

HD/UND

HD/SEC DEPT

HD/... NAD... ..

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

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RESIDENT CLERK

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CABINET OFFICE D10

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 032250Z AUG 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2649 OF 3 AUGUST

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

MY TELNOS 2640 AND 2641: LEBANON

1. THE STATE DEPARTMENT TOLD US THIS EVENING THAT HABIB'S NEGOTIATIONS IN BEIRUT APPEAR TO HAVE MADE PROGRESS TODAY AND THAT THE LATEST PROPOSALS FROM THE PLO (OF WHICH THEY DID NOT YET HAVE A FULL REPORT) WERE MORE REALISTIC. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND HABIB REMAINS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TIMING OF ANY DEPLOYMENT OF UN OBSERVERS. HE WAS ALSO URGING WASHINGTON TO REACH EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE COMPOSITION OF A MULTINATIONAL FORCE. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF U S AND EITHER FRENCH OR ITALIAN PARTICIPATION, BUT ARE KEEPING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF GREEK INVOLVEMENT.

2. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE U S SUPPORTS

2. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT THE U S SUPPORTS THE DEPLOYMENT OF UN OBSERVERS IN BEIRUT BUT THAT THE MODALITY OF THE DEPLOYMENT MAY TAKE SOME TIME.

3. MEANWHILE, SHAMIR MET TODAY WITH MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL SEEKS A PEACEFUL END TO THE PLO PRESENCE IN WEST BEIRUT BUT REPEATED ISRAEL'S THREAT TO DRIVE THEM OUT MILITARILY IF NECESSARY. ONCE THE PLO WAS OUT OF LEBANON IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PUSH FORWARD THE PEACE PROCESS. SHAMIR EMPHASISED THAT THE U S AND ISRAEL HAD SHARED GOALS IN LEBANON.

4. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI BOMBING OF WEST BEIRUT AND AT LEAST BY IMPLICATION CRITICISED ISRAELI POLICIES ON THE WEST BANK. BUT THE ATMOSPHERE IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY, IN CONTRAST TO BEGIN'S MEETINGS ON THE HILL IN JUNE. SEVERAL MEMBERS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE OBJECTIVE OF GETTING THE PLO OUT OF BEIRUT. A HOUSE STAFFER COMMENTED TO US THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT ISRAEL (LIKE THE ADMINISTRATION) WAS FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS AND HAD NO THOUGHT FOR WIDER ISSUES. BUT SHAMIR HAD REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR NEW MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ON THE WEST BANK.

THOMAS

NNNN

X

WONNY 02/04