

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 17

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

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PS/MR HURD
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MR MOBERLY

MR GOODISON

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 030054Z AUG 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2641 OF 2 AUGUST

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

LEBANON : VISITS TO WASHINGTON OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FOREIGN
MINISTERS.

1. KAMAL HASSAN ALI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST WEEK FOR TALKS WITH REAGAN AND SHULTZ, DID NOT SUCCEED IN RECONCILING EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN DIFFERENCES ON HOW TO TACKLE THE BEIRUT CRISIS. THE EGYPTIANS CONTINUE TO INSIST ON LINKAGE BETWEEN THE WITHDRAWAL OF PLO PERSONNEL FROM BEIRUT AND THE WIDER PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HERE SAY THAT THIS COULD TAKE THE FORM OF AN AMERICAN COMMITMENT, EVEN IN THE MOST GENERAL TERMS, TO FINDING A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS, OR TO PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION. BUT THE AMERICANS TAKE THE LINE THAT THE WEST BEIRUT PROBLEM MUST BE SOLVED FIRST AND THAT THE WIDER PALESTINIAN ISSUE CAN BE LOOKED AT THEREAFTER.

2. THE EGYPTIANS TOLD THE AMERICANS THAT THEY WERE STILL WILLING TO TAKE THEIR SHARE OF THE PLO PERSONNEL FROM BEIRUT PROVIDED THAT THEIR LINKAGE CONDITION IS MET. THE AMERICANS SEE THIS AS EGYPTIAN REFUSAL TO TAKE ANY PLO PERSONNEL WITHOUT A MAJOR U S POLITICAL

... EGYPTIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION

GESTURE. MEANWHILE THE TEXT OF THE FRANCO/EGYPTIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE AMERICANS, WHO HAVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WATER DOWN THE REFERENCES TO PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. THE EGYPTIAN AIM IS TO OBTAIN LANGUAGE WHICH, IF ACCEPTED BY THE PLO WOULD CONSTITUTE FULFILMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONDITIONS FOR A U S/PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE.

3. EAGLEBURGER CALLED IN THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AFTER KAMAL HASSAN ALI'S DEPARTURE AND SUBJECTED HIM TO QUOTE TOUGHER TALK THAN ANYTHING THE EGYPTIANS HAD HEARD YET UNQUOTE. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT UNLESS THE EGYPTIANS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE THEIR SHARE, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PLACES FOR THE PLO TO GO. KEMP (NSC) SUGGESTED TO US TODAY THAT THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOR HABIB TO PAY A FURTHER VISIT TO CAIRO, WHEN HE COULD GET AWAY FROM LEBANON.

4. AS A CURTAIN-RAISER TO SHAMIR'S VISIT, PRESIDENT REAGAN TOLD REPORTERS YESTERDAY THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE BEIRUT CEASEFIRE NOT BE VIOLATED. HE HAD LOST PATIENCE A LONG TIME AGO. THE BLOODSHED MUST BE STOPPED. HE WOULD BE TAKING A FIRM LINE WITH SHAMIR.

5. ACCORDING TO EAGLEBURGER AND KEMP, THE PRESIDENT WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD TODAY WHEN HE SAW SHAMIR. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT ISRAELI ACTIONS IN WEST BEIRUT WERE UNACCEPTABLE; THAT THEY COULD BENEFIT ONLY THE RUSSIANS; AND THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION COULD NOT TAKE THE DAILY TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE ISRAELI CAMPAIGN. IT WAS PROBABLY REAGAN'S STIFFEST MEETING YET WITH AN ISRAELI LEADER.

6. IN A SEPARATE MEETING, SHULTZ EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR THE BEIRUT CEASEFIRE TO BE MAINTAINED TO GIVE HABIB'S NEGOTIATIONS A CHANCE AND FOR THE ISRAELIS TO RESTORE WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES TO WEST BEIRUT. SHAMIR REHEARSED ISRAEL'S CONCERNS THAT HABIB'S MISSION HAD ALREADY LASTED EIGHT WEEKS WITHOUT SUCCESS; THAT PRESSURE WAS REQUIRED IF THE PLO WERE TO BE CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO LEAVE BEIRUT; AND THAT SOME SORT OF A TIME LIMIT WAS NECESSARY. HE REPEATED ISRAELI ASSURANCES ABOUT THEIR ULTIMATE INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE LEBANON. ON THE AUTONOMY TALKS THE AMERICANS HAD EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE REMOVAL OF THE MAYORS. WHEN SHAMIR TRIED TO JUSTIFY THIS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY HAD OPPOSED CAMP DAVID AND WERE THEREFORE DISQUALIFIED, EAGLEBURGER HAD POINTED OUT THAT OPPOSITION TO CAMP DAVID HAD NOT APPARENTLY DISQUALIFIED EITHER THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON OR SHAMIR HIMSELF. DESPITE THIS, THE ISRAELIS HERE ARE MAINTAINING THAT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD. BUT THERE IS NO SIGN THAT ANY REAL PROGRESS WAS MADE.

THOMAS