

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 14

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

~~NO 10 DOWNING STREET~~
CABINET OFFICE D10

IMMEDIATE

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

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PUSD (2)

NEWS D

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

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UNCLASSIFIED

FM BEIRUT 051202Z AUGUST 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 476 OF 5 AUGUST 82

INFO IMMEDIATE USUAL POSTS AND UKMIS GENEVA

MIPT

BEGINS:

1. ATTACKED BY AIR, SEA AND LAND IN RAS BEIRUT SEMICOLON FIGHTING RESUMED 0625 HOURS LOCAL, 5 AUGUST.

2. ICRC STAFF SPEND NEARLY ALL OF 4 AUGUST IN SHELTERS AND ARE STILL THERE.

3. DURING A SLIGHT LULL IN THE AFTERNOON OF 4 AUGUST, MR DESALIS VISITED NINE MAJOR WEST BEIRUT HOSPITALS AND SAW 193 WOUNDED AND 15 DEAD IN THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (AUH) ALONE. MOST OF THESE WERE SOLDIERS BROUGHT IN BY COLLEAGUES, IT BEING IMPOSSIBLE FOR CIVILIANS TO GET TO THE AUH. DESALIS WAS UNABLE TO VISIT ANY OF THE MINOR MEDICAL CENTRES.

4. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH TRUE CASUALTY FIGURES. MANY ARE BURIED BENEATH THE RUBBLE OF HOUSES OR ARE TRAPPED IN THE BASEMENTS OF HIGH-RISE BLOCKS.

5. THE ICRC BUILDING HAS BEEN HIT BY ISRAELI FIRE AND ALL THE WINDOWS HAVE BEEN BLOWN OUT. THERE ARE 120 CIVILIANS TAKING REFUGE IN THE ICRC SHELTER WITH ICRC STAFF AND CONDITIONS ARE PRECARIOUS.

6. THE WATER AND FUEL SHORTAGE HAS REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE. THE SUPPLY OF BLOOD IS ADEQUATE AS DONORS ARE STILL COMING FORWARD BUT THERE ARE NO MEANS OF STORING/PRESERVING IT. UNLESS THERE IS A HOLDING CEASEFIRE TO ENABLE ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO REACH HOSPITALS, MEDICAL STATIONS AND THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, NO FURTHER RELIEF WORK WILL BE POSSIBLE.

ENDS:

ROBERTS...

NNNN

SENT AT 051343Z BW KKK
QSL LD