

GRS 550
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 101700Z
FM UKMIS GENEVA 101545Z
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 454 OF 10 AUGUST 1982
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON TELAVIV DAMASCUS CAIRO UKMIS NEW YORK
AMMAN NICOSIA

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MY TELNO 451 : ICRC/LEBANON

1. THE U S CHARGE D'AFFAIRES CALLED AT 1330Z TODAY (AUGUST 10) TO BRING US UP TO DATE .
2. ON INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD JUST TOLD ICRC THAT HABIB'S PLANS ARE NOW WITH THE LEBANESE AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS. MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS ARE ALREADY UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN U S, FRANCE AND ITALY. ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS IS THAT WITHIN 4 (FOUR) DAYS OF AN AGREEMENT BEING REACHED , AT LEAST ONE VESSEL MUST BE AVAILABLE OFF BEIRUT TO COMMENCE THE SEA EVACUATION EXERCISE. IN VIEW OF THIS, ICRC HAD BEEN ASKED TO PROCEED (BY IMPLICATION, TO CHARTER THE APPROPRIATE SHIPS) WITHOUT WAITING FOR FURTHER DETAILS FROM HABIB. VAN HEUVEN SAID THAT ICRC TOOK THIS POINT. HE EXPECTED THEM TO CONTACT US VERY SHORTLY WITH A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN CHARTERING SHIPS AGAINST THAT TIMETABLE. (SEE PARA 6 BELOW)
3. VAN HEUVEN ALSO TOLD ICRC THAT THE PLO WERE INSISTING THAT EVACUATION VESSELS SHOULD NOT (NOT) CARRY RED CROSS INSIGNIA. HE HAD SUGGESTED TO ICRC THAT THERE MAY BE SCOPE FOR NEGOTIATION WITH THE PLO OVER THE SIZE OF ANY SUCH EMBLEMS OR THAT EMBLEMS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IF THE EXERCISE WERE FORMALLY TO INCLUDE EVACUATION OF "WOUNDED" PLO FIGHTERS. HE WOULD BE REPORTING THAT ICRC ' S FIRST RESPONSE WAS APPARENTLY QUITE FLEXIBLE.
4. VAN HEUVEN TOLD US THAT WASHINGTON HAVE SUGGESTED THAT LIAISON ON DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN BEIRUT BETWEEN THE ICRC DELEGATION AND THE U S MISSION. HOEFLIGER, A SENIOR ICRC DELEGATE FROM GENEVA, WILL BE FLYING OUT SHORTLY TO JOIN THEIR PEOPLE ON THE SPOT. WASHINGTON'S LATEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT BETWEEN 5,000 AND 8,000 PEOPLE ARE TO BE EVACUATED BY SEA. OTHER S WILL BE GOING BY OVERLAND ROUTES. THE SHIPS' DESTINATIONS ARE LIKELY TO INCLUDE LATAKIA, AQABA AND ALEXANDRIA.
5. THE U S MISSION HAVE ALSO TOLD US THAT THE LEBANESE HAVE ASKED IF THE CHARTERED SHIPS WILL CONTAIN SMALL CRAFTX CAPABLE OF FERRYING PASSENGERS. IF NOT, THE LEBANESE HAD SUGGESTED USING LANDING CRAFT E.G. FROM BRITISH FORCES IN CYPRUS. ICRC HAVE ALREADY GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO EMBARKING PASSENGERS BY SMALL CRAFT AND FAVOUR DOING SO FROM BEACHES ON THE WESTERN SHORE.

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6. IN VIEW OF THE EXPECTED EARLY ICRC APPROACH, COULD YOU PLEASE LET US HAVE AN UP TO DATE LIST OF AVAILABLE SHIPS WITH THE NECESSARY DETAIL TO ALLOW ICRC TO PROCEED TO CHARTER. THIS WOULD PRESUMABLY INCLUDE TELEX NUMBERS OF AGENTS, ETC. ALTHOUGH VAN HEUVEN WAS UNABLE TO SAY EXACTLY WHEN EMBARKATION WOULD NEED TO START, ANY SHIPS TO BE NOMINATED TO ICRC SHOULD PRESUMABLY BE AVAILABLE OFF BEIRUT WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE DAYS.

7. WHEN PESTALOZZI, THE ICRC VICE-PRESIDENT SPOKE TO ME ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRIME MINISTERS VISIT ON 12 AUGUST, HE MENTIONED THAT THEIR EMISSARY HAD HAD SATISFACTORY DISCUSSIONS IN TEL AVIV (PARA 3 OF MY TUR).

8. FCO PLEASE PASS ADVANCE COPIES TO MCCOY DOT, AND MOD.

MARSHALL

MIDDLE EAST

(ADVANCED AS REQUESTED)

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