

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES # 22

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

~~NO~~ 10 DOWNING STREET  
CABINET OFFICE D10

PS (6)  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
~~MR MURPHY~~  
SIR J BULLARD  
HD/NENAD  
HD/MED  
HD/UND  
HD/SEC DEPT  
HD/... NAD ...

HD/CONSULAR DEPT  
... ..  
... ..

PUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 032321Z SEP 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2950 OF 3 SEPTEMBER

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK BEIRUT TEL AVIV DAMASCUS CAIRO AMMAN  
PARIS AND MOSCOW.

LEBANON

1. THE AMERICANS HAVE SET UP AN INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP UNDER DRAPER, WHO WILL HAVE THE PERSONAL RANK OF AMBASSADOR, TO DEAL WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE LEBANESE CRISIS, INCLUDING RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION. THE GROUP WILL REPORT TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, KENNETH DAM.

2. VELIOTES TOLD SIR J THOMSON TODAY THAT SOME ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED - INDEED WAS PROBABLE. BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT THEM TO TAKE ON THE SYRIANS. THEY WERE LIKELY TO TRY TO IMPOSE A PEACE TREATY, IF NECESSARY BY FORCE, ON THE LEBANESE. BEGIN HAD HOPED TO OBTAIN BASHIR'S AGREEMENT TO THIS IN TIME FOR YESTERDAY'S ISRAELI CABINET COMMUNIQUE IN ORDER TO SHOW THE AMERICANS THAT

ISRAELI CABINET COMMUNIQUE IN ORDER TO SHOW THE AMERICANS THAT HE NEEDED NO LESSONS IN HOW TO MAKE PEACE WITH HIS NEIGHBOURS.

3. VELIOTES COULD NOT PREDICT THE NEXT STEPS. BUT HE SAW NO INDICATIONS THAT THE SYRIANS WERE WILLING TO LEAVE LEBANON. HE CONFIRMED THE AMERICAN VIEW THAT A ROLE FOR UNIFIL IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS ESSENTIAL. THE AMERICANS HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF A SINAI-TYPE FORCE WITH AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. THE ISRAELIS MIGHT LIKE A BUFFER OF LOCAL MILITIAS (HADDAD) BUT THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE UNACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONALLY AND TO THE LEBANESE.

4. KEMP (NSC) TOLD US SEPARATELY THAT BASHIR HAD EMPHASISED TO WEINBERGER THAT HE WANTED THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AMERICANS (CLEARLY IN ORDER TO ENABLE HIM TO REDUCE HIS DEPENDENCE ON THE ISRAELIS) AND THAT HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE NEED FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SYRIANS. KEMP SAW NO PROSPECT THAT BASHIR WOULD SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE ISRAELIS MIGHT WELL USE HADDAD AS A LEVER.

WRIGHT

NNNN

BB SYMASC02

BB LET YATA

BB SYMASC01

BB SYMASC02

BB SYMASC01

BB SYMASC01

BB SYMASC01

BB SYMASC01