

00 MOSCOW
00 TOKYO

GRS 700

UNCLASSIFIED
FM WASHINGTON 210035Z
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3102 OF 20 SEPTEMBER

M
M. Darroch
cc PMs Party

INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT TEL AVIV DAMSCUS AMMAN CAIRO JEDDA TUNIS
PARIS UKMIS NEW YORK MOSCOW ROME TOKYO

INFO SAVING ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG
THE HAGUE UKREP BRUSSELS OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS

LEBANON

1. IN A STATEMENT ON TELEVISION ON 20 SEPTEMBER PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID THAT RECENT HEARTRENDING EVENTS IN LEBANON WERE A REMINDER OF THE IMPERATIVE OF BRINGING PEACE TO LEBANON AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE BASIC US OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON, WHICH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT SHARED, WERE UNCHANGED. THE FIRST PRIORITY WAS THE RESTORATION OF A STRONG, STABLE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BROUGHT INTO BEING BY ORDERLY CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAD AN OBLIGATION TO ASSIST SUCH A GOVERNMENT TO REASSERT ITS AUTHORITY OVER ALL ITS TERRITORY, TO PAVE THE WAY TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES.
2. IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS, AND IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, HE HAD AGREED TO FORM A NEW MULTINATIONAL FORCE TO ASSIST THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO RESUME FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS CAPITAL. THE FORCE WOULD BE IN BEIRUT FOR A LIMITED PERIOD, NOT AS A POLICE FORCE, BUT TO ENABLE THE LEBANESE TO DISCHARGE POLICING DUTIES FOR THEMSELVES. THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THIS ACTION.
3. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE ISRAELIS SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM BEIRUT. SHULTZ HAD TOLD THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR THAT UNLESS ISRAEL MOVED TO WITHDRAW IT WOULD BECOME EVER MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN PROBLEMS NOT ITS OWN WHICH IT COULD NOT SOLVE.
4. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE REMOVAL OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM LEBANON HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND ENDORSED BY MANY OTHERS, INCLUDING ARAB STATES. BOTH ISRAEL AND SYRIA CLAIMED TO HAVE NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IN LEBANON AND WERE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW. IT WAS URGENT THAT SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS BE AGREED. THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF NEIGHBOURING STATES, ESPECIALLY NORTHERN ISRAEL, HAD TO BE PROVIDED FOR, BUT THIS WOULD NOT BE A DIFFICULT TASK GIVEN THE POLITICAL WILL.
5. DRAPER WOULD REMAIN IN THE AREA TO WORK FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS. HABIB WOULD JOIN HIM AND REPRESENT THE PRESIDENT AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT OF LEBANON, CONSULT WITH LEADERS IN THE AREA AND RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO REPORT.
6. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO END THE AGONY OF THE LEBANESE BECAUSE THIS WAS BOTH RIGHT AND IN THE US NATIONAL INTEREST. HE WAS DETERMINED TO PRESS AHEAD WITH A BROADER EFFORT TO ACHIEVE PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBOURS. LAST WEEK'S EVENTS IN BEIRUT HAD ONLY REINFORCED HIS CONVICTION THAT LASTING PEACE WAS DESPERATELY NEEDED AND THAT THE INITIATIVE HE HAD ANNOUNCED ON 1 SEPTEMBER WAS THE RIGHT WAY TO PROCEED.
7. SEE MIFT

FCO PASS SAVING ATHENS ABU DHABI ADEN ALGIERS BAGHDAD BAHRAIN
BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DOHA DUBAI DUBLIN JERUSALEM KHARTOUM
KUWAIT LUXEMBOURG MUSCAT RABAT SA A'A THE HAGUE TRIPOLI
UKREP BRUSSELS

WRIGHT