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FM WASHINGTON 202218Z OCT 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3406 OF 20 OCTOBER 1982
INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT, TEL AVIV ROUTINE, UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS,
ROME, MOSCOW, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, JEDDA, CAIRO

MS

LEBANON: GEMAYEL'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON 19 OCTOBER GEMAYEL SAW THE PRESIDENT, SHULTZ AND WEINBERGER, AS WELL AS CLAUSEN (WORLD BANK). THE AMERICANS PROFESS TO BE PLEASED WITH THE TONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS, THOUGH THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE GAP BETWEEN THE LEBANESE AND ISRAELI POSITIONS ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES FROM LEBANON.

2. ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, GEMAYEL MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT MOST OF THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES (WASHINGTON TELNO 3361). HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO ENTER INTO ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE ISRAELIS BEFORE THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR FORCES OR TO DO ANYTHING TO PREJUDICE LEBANESE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION OR HIS RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER ARAB STATES TO WHOM HE WAS LOOKING FOR FUNDS FOR REHABILITATION IN LEBANON. GEMAYEL DID HOWEVER, EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO TALK DIRECTLY TO THE ISRAELIS UNDER US AUSPICES. THE LEBANESE WERE

~~IN LEBANON~~. GEMAYEL DID HOWEVER, EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO TALK DIRECTLY TO THE ISRAELIS UNDER US AUSPICES. THE LEBANESE WERE ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH BOTH THE SYRIANS AND THE PLO ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR FORCES AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT HOPE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS MAY BEAR FRUIT WITHOUT THE AMERICANS HAVING TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE.

3. ON SOUTH LEBANON GEMAYEL APPEARED WILLING TO CONSIDER INCLUDING SOME HADDAD MILITIA IN THE LEBANESE ARMY AND A POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE FOR UNIFIL. HE RECOGNISED THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY COULD NOT AT PRESENT COVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY. THE AMERICANS STRESSED THE VALUE OF UNIFIL AS A 7000-MAN FORCE ALREADY IN PLACE. GEMAYEL RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXPANSION OF THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE FOR ADDITIONAL DUTIES IN THE BEKA'A VALLEY AND NORTHERN LEBANON: THE AMERICANS GAVE A NON-COMMITTAL ANSWER.

4. GEMAYEL SUBMITTED A NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR MILITARY AID, INCLUDING TRAINING, CLOTHING AND TENTAGE TO MEET THE ARMY'S IMMEDIATE NEEDS, ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND HOWITZERS. HE OUTLINED HIS PLANS FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE ARMY, FOR A TEN-FOLD EXPANSION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES, AND FOR THE CREATION OF A BORDER PATROL FORCE. ALL THESE MIGHT TOTAL ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN. THE AMERICANS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEIR RESPONSE WOULD DEPEND ON THE REPORT OF THE SIXTEEN MAN MILITARY ADVISORY MISSION WHICH HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THREE WEEKS IN LEBANON, DURING WHICH THEY HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH GEMAYEL HIMSELF. THEY SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT MEET ALL LEBANON'S NEEDS BUT WOULD LOOK TO OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES TO HELP. GEMAYEL MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE EXPECTED THE AMERICANS TO TAKE THE LEAD. THE STATE DEPARTMENT (PLEASE PROTECT) HAVE TOLD US THAT HE EVEN HINTED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING THE AMERICANS ANY MILITARY FACILITIES THEY MIGHT REQUIRE IN LEBANON, THOUGH HE WAS CLEARLY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POSSIBLE ARAB REACTION. THE STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENTED TO US THAT LEBANON'S MAIN REQUIREMENT WOULD BE FOR TRAINING FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANDED SECURITY FORCES: IN ADDITION TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE, THE UK, SPAIN AND GREECE MIGHT PERHAPS BE ABLE TO HELP. *am*

5. GEMAYEL SAID THAT LEBANON REQUIRED DLRS 10 BILLION FOR RECONSTRUCTION, OF WHICH DLRS 1 BILLION WOULD BE NEEDED IN THE COMING YEAR. HE EXPECTED THE WORLD BANK AND THE UNITED STATES (WHICH HAS ALREADY OFFERED DLRS 100 MILLION) TO GIVE A LEAD, BUT THAT THE BULK OF THE FUNDS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY ARAB INVESTORS, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, ONCE A CLIMATE OF SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE HAD BEEN REESTABLISHED. A WORLD BANK MISSION IS TO BE SENT TO LEBANON NEXT MONTH TO IDENTIFY ITS NEEDS

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GEMAYEL PUBLICALLY ENDORSED REAGAN'S MIDDLE EAST PEACE
INITIATIVE WHICH HE SAID HAD CREATED UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PEACE. |

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