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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

We want to see directly involved in the MFC - and we are in a position to do so.

Paul Martin

28 October 1982

John Taylor

JH
28/10

Lebanon: UK Participation in the Multinational Force

As you will have seen from UKMIS telnos 1746 and 1747 (copies enclosed) the Americans have made an informal request for a British contribution to the Multinational Force in Lebanon. In the American view, an expanded force has an essential role to play in ensuring the complete withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. We know that the Lebanese are also keen on a British contribution.

This is an unwelcome if not unexpected request. No immediate decision is needed. Mr Pym is aware of the Prime Minister's unwillingness to take on another military commitment overseas, but believes that we should await further details before considering carefully how we should react. Meanwhile the Americans are approaching a wide range of other potential contributors and would probably find particularly unhelpful any early negative indication from us in public. For the moment we are discussing with the Ministry of Defence and the Treasury what we might be able to offer the Lebanese in the way of training for the Lebanese army, and perhaps police force.

I am copying this to Richard Mottram (MOD).

John Taylor
John Taylor

JH (J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
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