

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 December, 1982.

Dear John,

Call on the Prime Minister by the Deputy Prime Minister
and Foreign Minister of the Lebanon

Dr. Salem called on the Prime Minister this morning. I enclose a record of the conversation.

Following the meeting, the Prime Minister said that she would like the possibility of a British contribution to the Multinational Force in the Lebanon to be urgently re-examined. She made no commitment to Dr. Salem, but would like now to consider the possibility of a purely token British contribution to the Multinational Force. This should involve not more and perhaps less than 100 personnel. The Prime Minister would prefer not to add to the numbers of British forces now engaged in overseas commitments, and would therefore like the possibility of moving personnel from Cyprus to the Lebanon to be considered. If it were decided to make such a contribution, it would have to be made clear both publicly and privately to the Lebanese that our contribution would last for three months only, whatever the situation in the Lebanon at the end of that period.

Mrs. Thatcher will wish to discuss this question with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Defence Secretary at an early opportunity. We shall be in touch separately to arrange a meeting.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

Yours ever

John Holmes

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