

LEBANON

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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 162120Z DEC 82  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2124 OF 16 DECEMBER 1982  
INFO IMMEDIATE NICOSIA,  
INFO PRIORITY MODUK, CBFC, BEIRUT.

YOUR TELNO 1129 AND TELECON GOULDING/WILSON: UK CONTRIBUTION TO  
LEBANON MULTINATIONAL FORCE.

1. I SPOKE TO URQUHART THIS MORNING (16 DECEMBER) HIS FIRST REACTION WAS ONE OF CONCERN BUT WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT ONLY 80 MEN WERE INVOLVED, HE RELAXED AND SAID THAT HE SAW NO PROBLEM. YOUR DECISION STRUCK HIM AS SENSIBLE IN THE LEBANON CONTEXT AND IT MIGHT EVEN SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE IN CYPRUS IF IT HELPED TO SUGGEST TO THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS THAT THE WORLD WAS NOT PREPARED TO WAIT INDEFINITELY FOR THEM TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. HE WAS A LITTLE WORRIED THAT THE TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN REPRESENTED UNFICYP'S EMERGENCY FORCE BUT HE WAS REASSURED WHEN I MADE THE POINT ABOUT EMERGENCY REINFORCEMENTS BEING AVAILABLE FROM THE SBAS IF NEEDED. HE WAS RATHER MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF YOUR DECISION ON SOME OF THE UNIFIL TROOP CONTRIBUTORS WHO WERE INCREASINGLY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE ROLE BEING ASSUMED BY THE MNF WHILE THEIR OWN TROOPS REMAINED IN LIMBO IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE THEREFORE ASKED THAT IN OUR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WE SHOULD NOT ONLY REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO UNICYP BUT ALSO, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, OUR COMMITMENT TO UN PEACE-KEEPING GENERALLY. I SAID THAT I SHARED THIS VIEW ON THIS AND WOULD RECOMMEND TO YOU ACCORDINGLY.

2. URQUHART ASKED THAT, ONCE IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT WE WERE GOING AHEAD, I SHOULD COMMUNICATE OUR DECISION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE RECORD. GRATEFUL THEREFORE TO RECEIVE BY TELEGRAM THE TEXT OF YOUR EVENTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARLIAMENT, WHEN IT HAS BEEN MADE.

THOMSON

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