

~~VIPER EAST:~~
MNF

ADVANCE COPIES

14

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
HD/MED
HD/UND

SIR A PARSONS
NO 10 DOWNING STREET

~~CABINET OFFICE~~

HD/... DEF ...

~~HD/CONSULTANT~~

Mr Wright

PUSD/ (2)

GRS 200

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BEIRUT 011220Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE F.C.O.

TELEGRAM NUMBER 110 OF 1 MARCH 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, DAMASCUS, WASHINGTON, TEL AVIV

ROUTINE CAIRO

SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS, ROME.

MIPT: MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE.

1. THE MEETING WENT ON TO DISCUSS THE COROLLARIES OF THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 2.

2. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT ALL EXCEPT THE FRENCH WERE BEING ASKED TO CONSIDER INCREASING THE SIZE OF THEIR CONTINGENTS. I ASKED WHETHER I SHOULD NOW REPORT TO MY GOVERNMENT THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING A FORMAL REQUEST TO US SEMI COLON AND WAS TOLD THAT I SHOULD.

3. NO FORMULA WAS PUT TO ME, BUT IT WAS SUGGESTED TO THE AMERICANS AND THE ITALIANS THAT THEY SHOULD DOUBLE THEIR CONTINGENTS, BRINGING THE FORCE NEAR TO A FIGURE OF 15,000.

4. WE THEN TURNED TO GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE BY QUESTIONS

IMMEDIATE ADVANCE

Prime Minister

The F/C.O. and ROB will be letting you have advice.

A & C 1/3

No

4. WE THEN TURNED TO GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE. BY QUESTION AND ANSWER WE ELICITED FROM THE LEBANESE THAT THEY WOULD BE ASKING US TO AGREE TO THE OPERATION OF OUR CONTINGENTS ON THE SAME BASIS AND WITH THE SAME MANDATE AS AT PRESENT, BUT IN THE WHOLE OF LEBANESE TERRITORY "IN PRINCIPLE".

5. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION NEVER AROSE AT THE MEETING, I THINK IT CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED NOW THAT THE LEBANESE WILL ASK US TO EXTEND THE DURATION OF THE STAY OF OUR CONTINGENT IN THE LEBANON.

6. IF WE WERE TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF OUR CONTINGENT WE SHOULD BY DOUBLING IT BE MOVING PARI PASSU WITH THE AMERICANS

AND THE ITALIANS, WHO ALREADY SEEM DISPOSED TO CONCUR.

7. THIS IS ALL CONTINGENCY PLANNING SEMI COLON AND I KNOW HOW TIRESOME HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS ARE. IT SEEMS TO ME, HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTIONS CAN NOW BE CONSIDERED AS LIKELY TO ARISE. I DOUBT WHETHER PRESIDENT GEMAYEL WOULD HAVE SPOKEN AS HE DID UNLESS NEGOTIATIONS HAD ADVANCED TO A SUITABLE POINT.

8. FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

ROBERTS

BT

NNNN