

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM BEIRUT 011215Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE F.C.O.

TELEGRAM NUMBER 109 OF 1 MARCH 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, DAMASCUS, WASHINGTON, TEL AVIV

ROUTINE CAIRO

SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK, BONN, PARIS, ROME.

ISRAEL/LEBANON.

1. PRESIDENT AMIN GEMAYEL GAVE THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE TODAY HIS MOST OPTIMISTIC REVIEW OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UP TO DATE. HE SAID THAT A DRAFT BY THE LEBANESE AND THE AMERICANS HAD NOW BEEN TAKEN TO ISRAEL. MUCH DEPENDED UPON NEGOTIATIONS THERE WHICH HABIB WAS AT THIS VERY MOMENT BEGINNING.

2. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, WHEN AND IF AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR A FAIRLY RAPID WITHDRAWAL, PERHAPS TO A TIME-TABLE OF 8 TO 10 WEEKS. IT WAS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY AND THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE SHOULD NOT BE CAUGHT NAPPING BY SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

3. CLEARLY IN ORDER TO EMPHASISE THAT THIS WAS A SOMETHAT

3. CLEARLY IN ORDER TO EMPHASISE THAT THIS WAS A SOMEWHAT
SPECIAL OCCASION, THE LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER WAS ALSO PRESENT
AND SAID A FEW WORDS ON MUCH THE SAME LINES AS PRESIDENT
GEMAYEL. THE PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE ALSO INVITED AT
THE BEGINNING.

4. SEE MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM.

5. FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

ROBERTS

BT

NNNN