

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

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

~~NO 10 DOWNING STREET~~
CABINET OFFICE D10

HD/... ..

ADVANCE COPY

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RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE



CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON 142205Z MAR 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 623 OF 14 MARCH
INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT, TEL AVIV ROUTINE DAMASCUS, AMMAN, CAIRO,
JEDDA, MOSCOW, UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO SAVING PARIS, ROME.

ISRAEL/LEBANON

SUMMARY

1. SHAMIR'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON PRODUCED LITTLE PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON. THE ISRAELI DEMAND FOR A RESIDUAL IDF PRESENCE REMAINS THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE. MORE US/LEBANESE TALKS THIS WEEK.

DETAIL

2. SHAMIR LEAVES WASHINGTON TOMORROW AFTER A THREE DAY VISIT DURING WHICH HE HAD THREE LENGTHY SESSIONS OF TALKS WITH SHULTZ, AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT REAGAN. THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS HELD SEPARATE TALKS WITH SHULTZ.

3. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE TOLD US THAT SHULTZ' TALKS WITH SHAMIR FOCUSED ON LEBANON, THOUGH THE ISRAELIS MENTIONED A NUMBER OF BILATERAL ISSUES INCLUDING THE CONTINUED WITHHOLDING FROM CONGRESS OF THE PROPOSAL TO SELL THEM MORE F-16S AND THE NEED FOR BETTER LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE US CONTINGENT IN THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND IDF OFFICERS IN BEIRUT. THERE WAS LITTLE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES. THE AMERICANS HAD NOT EXPECTED THE VISIT TO PRODUCE ANY MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH. SHAMIR HAD HAD NO FLEXIBILITY TO NEGOTIATE: HIS ROLE HAD BEEN TO

~~NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE VISIT TO PRODUCE ANY MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.~~
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DESCRIBE THE ISRAELI POSITION. THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT
THE ISRAELIS SAW A NEED TO MAKE THEIR CASE TO SHULTZ IN PERSON
BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT HABIB UNSYMPATHETIC TO THEIR DEMANDS. SHULTZ
HAD GIVEN SHAMIR A FULL AND SYMPATHETIC HEARING.

4. THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS THE ISRAELI DEMAND FOR A RESIDUAL IDF
PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THEY WERE ASKING, (UNDERLINE FOLLOWING
TWO WORDS) INTER ALIA, FOR DAILY PATROLS BY THE IDF WITH IDF
SECURITY PROTECTION AND AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ISRAELIS COULD
TAKE QUOTE INDEPENDENT ACTION UNQUOTE IF NECESSARY. THE LEBANESE
WERE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY RESIDUAL ISRAELI PRESENCE OF ANY
KIND. THE MOST THEY WERE PREPARED TO CONCEDE (PLEASE PROTECT) WAS
THAT LEBANESE ARMY TEAMS INSPECTING THE SECURITY ZONE MIGHT BE
ACCOMPANIED BY INDIVIDUAL IDF OFFICERS ON A REGULAR BASIS.
NORMALISATION HAD NOT BEEN AS DIFFICULT AN ISSUE. THE LEBANESE
AND ISRAELIS SEEM TO HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING WHICH WILL BE
COVERED IN SIDE LETTERS AND ORAL UNDERSTANDINGS IN ORDER NOT TO
EMBARRASS THE LEBANESE WITH THE ARABS.

5. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAY THAT THE NEXT STEPS ARE FOR THE ISRAELI
CABINET TO RE-ASSESS THEIR POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF SHAMIR'S TALKS
IN WASHINGTON AND FOR HABIB AND DRAPER TO RETURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST
TOWARDS THE END OF THIS WEEK TO ATTEMPT TO NAIL DOWN AN AGREEMENT.

6. MEANWHILE ELIE SALEM AND HIS PARTY ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN
WASHINGTON UNTIL 17 MARCH FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH SHULTZ AND A
MEETING WITH REAGAN ON 16 MARCH. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SALEM DOES
INTEND TO RETURN VIA LONDON (BEIRUT TELNO 129) AND ARE IN TOUCH
WITH THE LEBANESE EMBASSY ABOUT HIS PLANS.

FCO PASSING SAVING PARIS, ROME.

WRIGHT

~~REPEATED SAVING AS REQUESTED~~

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