

MIDDLE: ADVANCE COPIES

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NO 10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE D10



IMMEDIATE

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RESIDENT CLERK

GR 320

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 292357Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 795 OF 29 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT MODUK PARIS ROME TEL AVIV

ROUTINE OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS

BEIRUT TEL NO 157: LEBANON/ISRAEL

1. BEFORE RECEIPT OF TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE MACK (STATE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR FOR LEBANON) TOLD US THAT THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED BY THE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS IN THEIR NON-PAPER, WHICH HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE LEBANESE. THE ISRAELIS CONTINUED TO DEMAND THAT HADDAD SHOULD COMMAND THE SOUTHERN BRIGADE, JOINT PATROLS, AND THE RIGHT OF HOT PURSUIT INTO LEBANON IF THEY WERE NOT TO HAVE SURVEILLANCE STATIONS IN THE SOUTH.

2. MACK SAID THAT THE LEBANESE WERE WILLING TO INTEGRATE PERSONNEL FROM HADDAD'S MILITIA INTO THE LAF AND TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF ISRAELI SENSITIVITIES IN ASSIGNING LAF PERSONNEL TO THE SOUTH. BUT THEY HAD TO RETAIN THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO APPOINT THEIR OWN OFFICERS



~~SENSITIVITIES IN ASSIGNING LAF PERSONNEL TO THE SOUTH. BUT THEY HAD TO RETAIN THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO APPOINT THEIR OWN OFFICERS IN THEIR ARMED FORCES. THE LEBANESE WERE PREPARED TO FIND AN HONOURABLE AND PERSONALLY ATTRACTIVE SOLUTION FOR HADDAD HIMSELF. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT HADDAD WAS NO LONGER A FREE AGENT; HE WAS CONSTANTLY ACCOMPANIED BY AN ISRAELI LIAISON OFFICER. MACK NOTED THAT THE LEBANESE HAD TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF POSSIBLE SYRIAN REACTIONS TO ANYTHING THEY AGREED WITH THE ISRAELIS. IF HADDAD WERE TO COMMAND THE SOUTHERN BRIGADE FOR EXAMPLE, THE SYRIANS WOULD DEMAND THAT AHMED KHATIB COMMANDED THE LAF BRIGADE IN THE BEKA'A.~~

3. MACK DID NOT KNOW HOW THIS PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED. HABIB PLANNED TO MAKE ONE FURTHER VISIT TO ISRAEL BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS.

4. AFTER SEEING TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE LEAHY TOLD VELIOTES THAT SALEM HAD BEEN SHAKEN BY THE LATEST ISRAELI DEMANDS AND THAT HE SEEMED TO BE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF BREAKING OFF THE TALKS, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. VELIOTES SAID THAT THE AMERICANS HAD JUST RECEIVED A SIMILAR MESSAGE. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SAEB SALAM HAD PUBLICLY CRITICISED BOTH THE LEBANESE AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. THE AMERICANS WERE DOING THEIR BEST TO REASSURE THE LEBANESE OF THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITIONS. HABIB WAS EXPECTED BACK IN WASHINGTON TOWARDS THE END OF THIS WEEK.

WRIGHT

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