

GPS 200A
UNCLASSIFIED
FROM WASHINGTON 011825Z APR 83.
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 841 OF 1 APRIL
INFO PRIORITY BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, JEDDA.

LEBANON/ISRAEL.

1. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS AFTER HIS SPEECH IN LOS ANGELES YESTERDAY PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT (NOT) APPROVE DELIVERY OF 75 F-16'S TO ISRAEL WHILE ISRAELI FORCES CONTINUED TO OCCUPY LEBANNON. HE SAID THAT THE US WAS FORBIDDEN BY LAW TO RELEASE THE PLANES, IMPLYING THAT ISRAEL HAD VIOLATED THE TERMS OF ITS ARMS SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH THE US WHICH PROVIDES IN ACCORDANCE WITH US LAW, THAT US SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT CAN BE USED ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES.

2. THE DECISION, ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK, TO SELL ISRAEL A FURTHER 200 SIDEWINDERS, IS NOT AFFECTED.

3. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT EACH CASE IS A QUESTION OF JUDGEMENT. THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT MAKING A DETERMINATION UNDER US LAW OF ISRAEL'S INELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE FURTHER US ARMS. BUT CONCERNS AROSE OVER WHETHER IT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION IN RESPECT OF THE F-16'S WHICH HAD BEEN HELD UP SINCE THE ISRAELIS WENT INTO LEBANNON.

WRIGHT

MIDDLE EAST

STANDARD

NENAD	MAED
MED	ESSD
NAD	ERD
SAD	ESID
UND	CONS D
EESD	CONS EM UNIT
ECD	MR EGERTON
WED	MR THOMAS
RID	MR HAYES
SEC D	CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE