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DESKBY 031300Z F C O

FM BEIRUT 031215Z MAY 83

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 236 OF 3 MAY 1983

AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK, WASHINGTON, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS

INFO ROUTINE AMMAN, CAIRO

INFO SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS, PARIS, ROME, OTHER
MIDDLE EAST POSTS

MY TELNO 232 OF 12 APRIL. LEBANON/ISRAEL.

1. I WENT WITH LORD CARRINGTON TO SEE SHULTZ ON 1 MAY.
2. ESSENTIALLY, SHULTZ SAID THE FOLLOWING.
 - A. HE THOUGHT HE COULD PULL OFF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ISRAELIS.
 - B. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE ISRAELIS GENUINELY WANTED AGREEMENT (A MATTER ON WHICH LORD CARRINGTON HAD SOME DOUBTS).
 - C. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ALREADY IN BEING WAS A CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT.
 - D. THE REMAINING POINTS WERE VERY DIFFICULT.
 - E. HE HAD YET TO EXPLORE THE SYRIAN POSITION.
3. LORD CARRINGTON ALSO TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE MET SEVERAL EX-PRIME MINISTERS AND OTHER LEBANESE NOTABLES ON 30 APRIL, THE CONSENSUS WAS:
 - A. THAT COMMERCE WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR OF ALL SINCE, IF FRONTIERS WERE CLOSED TO THE LEBANON, THERE WOULD BE RUIN SEMI-COLON.
 - B. THAT THEY WERE THEREFORE AFRAID THAT ELIE SALEM AND PRESIDENT GEMAYEL MIGHT CONCEDE TOO MUCH AND THEREBY RUN THE RISKS ENTAILED IN 'A' ABOVE.
4. LORD CARRINGTON AND I HAD LUNCH WITH AMIN GEMAYEL ON 1 MAY BUT NOTHING VERY MUCH EMERGED.

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5. AT THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE TODAY, THE LEBANESE COORDINATOR OF NEGOTIATIONS SHOWED US, BUT DID NOT QUOTE FROM, A DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH WAS AT THE MOMENT BEING PUT TO THE ISRAELIS. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE 3 DIFFICULT POINTS NOW AT ISSUE. FIRST, THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF AN OPERATIONS CENTRE OR, AS THEY PREFERRED TO CALL IT, A SUPERVISION CENTRE. THE ISRAELIS WANTED A MUCH LARGER ORGANISATION THAN THE LEBANESE WERE PREPARED TO PERMIT. SECONDLY, THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF SUPERVISORY TEAMS. THE ISRAELIS WANTED THEM TO HAVE AN OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND TO BE IN EFFECT MILITARY UNITS, THUS CONSTITUTING AN ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE LEBANON. THE LEBANESE ON THE OTHER HAND WANTED ESSENTIALLY TEAMS OF OBSERVERS. THIRDLY, THERE WAS A DISPUTE ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, ON WHICH THE LEBANESE SOUGHT PERMANENT UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION WHILE THE ISRAELIS ONLY WANTED THE AMERICANS THEN BY ADHOC INVITATION.

6. AS A RESULT OF QUESTIONING, THE FOLLOWING POINTS ALSO EMERGED. I ASKED WHETHER SAAD HADDAD HAD NOW CEASED TO BE AN ISSUE AND RECEIVED A SLIGHTLY EVASIVE REPLY. SECONDLY, TUENI SAID THAT NOTHING NEW HAD EMERGED FROM ELIE SALEM'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS. THIRDLY, HE REVEALED THAT THE PALESTINIANS AT NEW DELHI HAD STIPULATED THAT THEIR WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE CONDITIONAL UPON THE MNF OR UNIFIL OCCUPYING AND GUARDING THEIR CAMPS.

7. F C O PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

ROBERTS

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

MIDDLE EAST

STANDARD

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