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FM WASHINGTON 052329Z

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1246 OF 5 MAY 1983

INFO CAIRO, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, BEIRUT, JEDDAH, PARIS,
ROME, UKMIS NEW YORK.

MIDDLE EAST: SHULTZ MISSION

AT A RESTRICTED BRIEFING EAGLEBURGER TODAY GAVE US THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF WHERE THINGS STAND. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT THERE WAS A MODERATE DEGREE OF OPTIMISM IN THE AMERICAN CAMP. THE ISRAELI/LEBANON DOCUMENT WHICH SHULTZ WAS NOW TRYING TO SELL TO THE ISRAELIS WAS ABOUT THE BEST THE AMERICANS COULD DO. THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK MIGHT BE TO GET THE ISRAELIS TO ACCEPT THE FORMULA ON HADDAD. EAGLEBURGER AGREED THAT THE DOCUMENT ITSELF WAS CLOSE TO WHAT SHULTZ HAD WORKED OUT WITH SHAMIR ON THE LATTER'S LAST VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

2. SHULTZ WOULD BE GOING TO DAMASCUS, NOT TO NEGOTIATE, BUT SIMPLY TO TELL THE SYRIANS THE STAGE THAT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON. IT WAS VERY HARD TO GET A PRECISE FIX ON SYRIAN INTENTIONS. DAM AND HIMSELF HAD THIS MORNING HAD A SESSION WITH DOBRYNIN, BUT ALL DOBRYNIN HAD DONE WAS TO FILIBUSTER. EAGLEBURGER THOUGHT THAT PRESIDENT GEMAYEL PROBABLY CONSIDERED THAT HE HAD 6 MORE MONTHS TO GET AN AGREEMENT BEFORE HIS POSITION BECAME IMPOSSIBLY DIFFICULT. IT MIGHT WELL BE THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD ACCEPT THE ISRAEL/LEBANON DOCUMENT IN THE BELIEF THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD REFUSE TO PLAY THEIR PART IN IT. BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOT WITHOUT PRESSURES ON ALL SIDES. THE SYRIANS MIGHT FEAR AN ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE SAM SITES WHICH THE ISRAELIS COULD TAKE OUT, PROVIDED THEY WERE READY TO ACCEPT LOSSES. ON THE OTHER HAND THERE WERE PRESSURES ON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW SINCE THE ISRAELI ARMY WAS DAILY TAKING CASUALTIES WHICH WERE UNWELCOME AT HOME. EAGLEBURGER ADDED THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE US MARINES IN THE LEBANON HAD NOT TOO HIGH AN OPINION OF THE ISRAELI FORCES. THEY WERE SCRUFFY AND UNSANITARY: MORE TO THE POINT, THEIR RECENT CASUALTIES HAD BEEN SUFFERED BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE MILITARY VIGILANCE.

3. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT EVERYBODY WAS LOUD IN THEIR PRAISES OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE. HE ADDED THAT THE LEBANESE THEMSELVES WERE IMMENSELY GRATEFUL. HE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT WHILE THE SYRIANS MIGHT BE DEPENDENT ON THE RUSSIANS FOR ARMS, THEY WERE DEPENDENT ON THE SAUDIS FOR MONEY. IT WAS FOR THAT REASON THAT SHULTZ WOULD BE GOING TO RIYADH ALSO.

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4. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO ALL HIS OTHER PROBLEMS,
SHULTZ HAD HAD A BAD DOSE OF FLU.

WRIGHT

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

MIDDLE EAST

STANDARD

NENAD	MAED
MED	ESSD
NAD	ERD
SAD	ESID
UND	CONS D
EESD	CONS EM UNIT
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