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FROM TEL AVIV 141313Z JUL 83

TO PRIORITY FCC

TELNO 193 OF 14 JUL 83

INFO PRIORITY MODUK, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, WASHINGTON, UKMIS -  
NEW YORK, PARIS, ROME.

INFO SAVING CAIRO AND JEDDA

MY TELEGRAM NO 169 : ISRAEL/LEBANON

1. THE DA IS REPORTING TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INDICATIONS THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF ISRAELI ARMoured VEHICLES HAVE BEEN MOVING SOUTH THROUGH LEBANON TOWARDS THE ISRAELI BORDER. MILITARY ATTACHE HAS TODAY OBSERVED EMPTY TRANSPORTERS HEADING NORTH FROM ISRAEL INTO LEBANON (I.E. PRESUMABLY TO BRING BACK TANKS, APC'S ETC).
  
2. THE ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF GAVE A TELEVISION INTERVIEW LAST NIGHT (13 JULY) IN WHICH HE SPOKE OF A WITHDRAWAL BY THE IDF TO A LINE ALONG THE AWALI RIVER. TRANSCRIPT IS NOT YET AVAILABEL BUT LEVY IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S PRESS AS SAYING THAT :
  - A) A CABINET DECISION ON REDEPLOYMENT WOULD BE TAKEN SOON ( HE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN ON WHETHER BEFORE OR AFTER BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON) SEMICOLON
  - B) THE WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT BE UNILATERAL BUT SHOULD BE SEEN AS PART OF A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE ISRAEL/LEBANON AGREEMENT, ONE AIM OF WHICH WAS THE COMPLETE EVACUATION OF THE IDF FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY SEMICOLON
  - C) LEBANESE MILITARY LEADERS HAD ASSURED HIM RECENTLY THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY COULD NOW TAKE OVER THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN LEBANON '' IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE'' (SIC). HE THOUGHT THE LEBANESE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS IN TAKING OVER THE 20 PER CENT OF ISRAELI HELD TERRITORY COVERED BY THE REDEPLOYMENT PLAN.
  
3. LEVY ALSO MADE THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IN LEBANON WAS NOT NECESSARILY A FUNCTION OF THE AMOUNT OF TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE IDF.
  
- 4.. PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST THAT WHEREAS ARENS FAVOURS A WITHDRAWAL TO THE AWALI IN STAGES LEVY WANTS TO DO IT IN ONE FELLSWOOP  
  
(LESS COSTLY IN MILITARY TERMS).

PRENDERGAST

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STANDARD

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