

(X 22)

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ADVANCE COPY

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PS/MR LUCE  
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~~STR J LEAHY~~  
MR EBERTON.  
~~SR J BULLARD~~  
HD/NEAD  
HD/RED  
HD/UND

Mr. Jones

Ps | NO 10 DOWNING STREET (3)  
CABINET OFFICE D10

IMMEDIATE

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RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 111630Z SEP 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 2550 OF 11 SEP

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK BEIRUT BRITFORLEB PARIS ROME CBFC DAMASCUS  
PRIORITY TEL AVIV JEDDA AMMAN CAIRO UKMIS NEW YORK.

MY TELNO 2546: LEBANON: SITREP

1. THE STATE DEPARTMENT TOLD US THIS MORNING OF A HEAVY ATTACK LAST NIGHT ON THE LAF AT SUQ EL GHARB BY ELEMENTS OF THE PLA AND IRANIANS FROM THE BAALBEK AREA. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE PSP MILITIA HAD BEEN INVOLVED. THE LAF HAD HELD THEIR POSITIONS BUT ONE LAF BATTALION HAD BEEN SEVERELY MAULED AND WAS NO LONGER AN EFFECTIVE UNIT.
2. THE NATIONAL SECURITY CCOUNCIL IS NOW (1530Z) MEETING TO CONSIDER HOW TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THIS FIGHTING.
3. THE SITUATION AT DEIR EL QAMAR HAS BECOME MORE TENSE. THE ICRC HAVE SUSPENDED THEIR RELIEF EFFORTS AND ARE NOT RETURNING TO THE VILLAGE FOR THE TIME BEING BECAUSE OF THE INCREASING HOSTILITY OF THE DRUZE MILITIA. THE ATTITUDE OF JUMBALATT AND THE LOCAL PSP COMMANDER (TAWFIQ BARAKAT) HAS HARDENED: THEY ARE MAKING LAF WITHDRAWAL FROM SUQ EL GHARB AN PRECONDITION FOR EVEN A LIMITED CEASEFIRE.
4. BANDAR IS STILL IN DAMASCUS, BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE LESS CONFIDENT THAN THEY WERE YESTERDAY ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF ACHIEVING ANYTHING. MCFARLANE INTERPRETS THE PLA/IRANIAN ATTACK ON SUQ EL GHARB AS INDICATING THAT THE SYRIANS ARE NOT NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FAITH.
5. BEIRUT HAS REMAINED QUIET THOUGH THERE ARE REPORTS OF SOME SHELLING OF THE MARINES POSITIONS THIS MORNING.

WRIGHT