

FLASH

ADVANCE COPY

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16

PS  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR EGERTON.  
~~MR WILLARD~~ MR JAMES  
HD/NENAD  
HD/MED  
HD/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
CABINET OFFICE D10

HD/... ..

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

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PUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 132325Z SEP 83

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2581 OF 13 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE BUDAPEST(PS/SOFS), TROOPS DHEKELIA(FOR PS/MR LUCE),  
BEIRUT, PRIORITY DAMASCUS, ROME, PARIS, BRITFORLED

YOUR TELNO 1497: LEBANON/MNF

1. LEBANON AND THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH  
BY MR HESELTINE AND MR WEINBERGER THIS MORNING. WEINBERGER SEEMED  
TO TAKE A PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE PROSPECTS IN LEBANON OVERALL.  
BUT HE SAID IN TERMS: "IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THE US GET  
ITSELF INTO A POSITION WHERE US FORCES AND THE LEBANESE ARMY WOULD  
BE LINED UP AGAINST SYRIA AND THE PLO". MR HESELTINE TOOK NOTE,  
BUT DREW ATTENTION TO THE RISK THAT THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE  
COULD END UP STAYING IN LEBANON WITHOUT ANY CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT IT  
WAS SUPPOSED TO DO.

2. WEINBERGER AND HIS OFFICIALS SEEMED TO THINK THE POSITION  
ON THE GROUND marginally better than it had been, and that the  
LEBANESE ARMY WAS ACQUITTING ITSELF WELL. THEY SHOWED INTEREST

~~2. WEINBERGER AND HIS OFFICIALS SEEMED TO THINK THE POSITION ON THE GROUND MARGINALLY BETTER THAN IT HAD BEEN, AND THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY WAS ACQUITTING ITSELF WELL. THEY SHOWED UNCERTAINTY, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE GEMAYEL GOVERNMENT AND FOR ANY PROCESS OF POLITICAL RECONCILIATION.~~

3. MR HESELTINE'S MEETING TOMORROW WITH SHULTZ WILL AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A FULLER DISCUSSION OF THE POINTS IN YOUR TUR.

4. SEE MIFT.

WRIGHT

NNNN

MT  
INT QSL ZZ K

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