

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16
ADVANCE COPY



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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 263 OF 16 SEPTEMBER

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, MODUK (D14), PARIS, ROME,
AMMAN, CAIRO, JEDDA

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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SYRIAN STATEMENT

IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION THAT IT IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WHICH IS MAKING THE SITUATION IN LEBANON MORE COMPLICATED AND MORE EXPLOSIVE ON BOTH THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEVELS. IT (THE US) HAS STARTED TO BEHAVE AS IF LEBANON HAS BECOME ONE OF ITS PROTECTORATES. THE SITUATION HAS BEVOME CRITICAL NOW THAT ITS SOLDIERS ARE INTERVENING IN MILITARY MATTERS AND THEIR ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON ARE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON ON THE PRETEXT OF SELF DEFENCE. AT THE SAME TIME US ENVOYS AND DIPLOMATS CONTINUALLY INTERFERE IN MAJOR AND MINOR MATTERS CONCERNED WITH LEBANESE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. THEY HAVE TAKEN DECISIONS WHGOH THREATEN LEBANESE ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CONTRARY TO

~~THREATEN LEBANESE ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS~~ CONTRARY TO THE WISHES OF ALL THE LEBANESE PEOPLE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE SMALL SECT WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY THE KATAEB PARTY.

RESULTING FROM THIS AND ACCOMPANYING IT ARE INTENSIFIED AMERICAN AND KATAEB EFFORTS TO HEIGHTEN TENSION IN ORDER TO FRUSTRATE ANY ARAB EFFORTS AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON AND INITIATING A NATIONAL DIALOGUE.

THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION TO THE DANGERS OF DIRECT AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON AND AT THE SAME TIME WARNS OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS NEW AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, WHICH THREATEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE REGION AND THE WORLD. (SYRIA) APPEALS TO THE ARAB MASSES AND HER PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST FORCES TO RISE UP AND PREPARE THEMSELVES TO CONFRONT THIS AMERICAN ATTACK AND FOIL IT.

THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC REITERATES HER LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO DEFEND HERSELF IF HER FORCES ARE EXPOSED TO ANY AGGRESSION AND ALSO REITERATES THAT SHE STANDS STRONGLY ALONG SIDE THE BROTHERLY LEBANESE PEOPLE AND ITS NATIONAL FORCES. THE MASSING OF AMERICAN FLEETS AND AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WILL NOT INTIMIDATE SYRIA. ON THE CONTRARY, IT INCREASES OUR RESOLVE TO CHALLENGE THE AGGRESSORS, ARMED WITH OUR PEOPLE, OUR ARMY, OUR PROFOUND BELIEF IN THE JUSTICE OF OUR CAUSE, THE SUPPORT OF THE ARAB MASSES AND THE BACKING OF FORCES OF WORLD LIBERATION EVERYWHERE''

MARSHALL

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