

# CONFIDENTIAL

GR 400

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 202344Z

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2687 OF 20 SEPTEMBER 1983

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

MY TELNO 2644: LEBANON: WAR POWERS ACT

1. THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE NOW REACHED AGREEMENT WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON THE TERMS OF A RESOLUTION WHICH IS BEING INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR BAKER, THE MAJORITY LEADER, AND IN THE HOUSE BY CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI.

2. THE RESOLUTION FINDS THAT ARTICLE 4 (A) (1) OF THE WAR POWERS ACT APPLIES TO THE PRESENT SITUATION IN LEBANON AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORISATION UNDER ARTICLE 5 (B) OF THE MARINES' CONTINUED DEPLOYMENT IS THEREFORE REQUIRED. THE RESOLUTION AUTHORISES SUCH DEPLOYMENT FOR 18 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ITS ENACTMENT. THE AUTHORISATION IS LIMITED TO A CONTINUATION OF THE EXISTING ROLE OF THE US CONTINGENT IN THE MNF AS DEFINED IN THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND AS LIMITED BY THE LEBANESE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH REQUIRES A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION IN THE SIZE OR ROLE OF THE US CONTINGENT TO HAVE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. THE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMS THE POLICY OBJECTIVES OF RESTORING LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL THE TERRITORY OF LEBANON AND SECURING THE WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES.

3. IT IS APPARENTLY UNDERSTOOD BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING THIS AGREEMENT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL IF NECESSARY MAINTAIN AFTER THE 18 MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS POWER TO CONTINUE TO DEPLY US FORCES IN LEBANON INDEPENDENTLY OF THIS CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORISATION. THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO MAKE THIS CLEAR WHEN HE SIGNS THE RESOLUTION. IT THUS REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO BUY TIME AT THE EXPENSE OF LEAVING THE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION UNRESOLVED.

CONFIDENTIAL

/4.

CONFIDENTIAL

4. REPUBLICAN STAFFERS EXPECT THE RESOLUTION TO BE PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK THOUGH THERE IS STILL A POSSIBILITY THAT DEMOCRATS IN THE SENATE WILL SEEK TO DELAY OR AMEND IT.

WRIGHT

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)  
LIMITED

NENAD  
MED  
DEFENCE D  
PUSD  
NEWS D  
UND  
NAD  
WED  
FINANCE D  
SED

PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR WRIGHT  
MR CARTLEDGE  
MR EGERTON  
MR STREETON  
MR ADAMS

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

COPIES TO  
SIR R ARMSTRONG } CABINET OFFICE  
MR GOODALL }  
MOD DS11

<sup>2</sup>  
CONFIDENTIAL