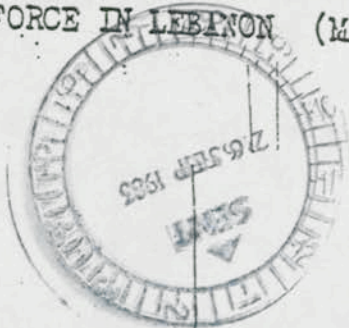


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TO IMMEDIATE F.C.O.

TELEGRAM NUMBER 539 OF 26 SEPTEMBER 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY),
PARIS, ROME, WASHINGTON, DAMASCUS, JEDDA.

UKMIS NEW YORK TELNO 881: LEBANON.

1. THE CEASEFIRE APPEARS TO BE HOLDING. DA HAS BEEN TOLD BY THE LEBANESE ARMY THAT IT IS, AND SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING COMMANDER BRITFORLEB HAS OBSERVED NOTHING BUT OCCASIONAL OUTBURSTS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE NEAR HIS HEADQUARTERS.

2. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS PUBLISHED THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. THE MAIN POINTS ARE:

(A) CEASEFIRE IN PLACE ON ALL FRONTS THROUGHOUT LEBANON. NEUTRAL OBSERVERS TO MONITOR THE CEASEFIRE IN THE AREAS OF CONFRONTATION. ALL LEBANESE DISPLACED SINCE 1975 TO BE HELPED TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL HOMES. ADOPTION OF PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR PROVIDING RELIEF AND.

(B) FORMATION OF A CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ARMY, THE LEBANESE FRONT, THE NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT AND AMAL.

(C) THE PRESIDENT OF LEBANON TO CALL FOR AN URGENT MEETING TO START A NATIONAL DIALOGUE. PARTICIPANTS TO BE FRANJIEH, KARAME

(C) THE PRESIDENT OF LEBANON TO CALL FOR AN URGENT MEETING TO START A NATIONAL DIALOGUE. PARTICIPANTS TO BE FRANJIEH, KARAME AND JUMBLATT (NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT), CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL (LEBANESE FRONT), BERRI (AMAL) AND SAEB SALAM, OSSEIRAN AND RAYMOND EDDE (INDEPENDENTS).

(D) IN ADDITION TO THE HEAD OF STATE, THE LEBANESE OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO COMPRISE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATURE. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM SYRIA AND SAUDI ARABIA ALSO TO ATTEND.

3. THERE IS NO FIRM NEWS HERE ON CEASEFIRE OBSERVERS. WHEN HE MADE HIS DEMARCHE ON 25 SEPTEMBER, THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MFA ONCE AGAIN TO PROVIDE OBSERVERS FROM THE ITALIAN MNF CONTINGENT.

4. THE CEASEFIRE HAS COME AS AN OVERWHELMING RELIEF TO PEOPLE HERE OF ALL POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS. THE LAST OBSTACLES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS (WASHINGTON TELNOS 2740 AND 2759) APPEAR TO HAVE CONVINCED THE LEBANESE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS BETWEEN LEBANON AND SYRIA AND NOT BETWEEN THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND LEBANESE POLITICAL FACTIONS ALLIED TO SYRIA. THESE LAST ARE SEEN HERE AS HAVING TAKEN MORE AND MORE OF A BACK SEAT. PACE THE SYRIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER (DAMASCUS TELNO 273), SYRIAN PROTESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE CARRY LITTLE CONVICTION HERE. INDEED, NABIH BERRI, THE LEADER OF BEIRUT AMAL AND A SUPPOSED ALLY OF JUMBLATT, IS REPORTED IN YESTERDAY'S (25 SEPTEMBER) PRESS AS SAYING THAT A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE IN WHICH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE WERE NOT REPRESENTED WOULD BE MEANINGLESS.

PALMER

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