

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16

PS  
PS/MR WCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR EBERTON  
SIR J BULLARD  
ED/NENAD  
ED/ED  
ED/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
CABINET OFFICE D10

ED/... ..

ED/CONSULAR DEPT

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FUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
RESIDENT CLERK



CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY  
SIC AAA/A3A

**IMMEDIATE**

**ADVANCE COPY**

GR 350  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM BEIRUT 141110Z OCT 83  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 579 OF 14 OCTOBER 1983  
INFO IMMEDIATE AMMAN, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, TEL AVIV, TUNIS, ATHENS,  
PARIS, ROME, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, MODUK  
SAVING TO BRITFORLEB

MY TELNO 575 (NOT TO ALL): LEBANON

1. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH BUILDING IN BEIRUT ON 13 OCTOBER. IT LASTED 7 HOURS. THE LEADERS OF ALL THE RIVAL FACTIONS WERE REPRESENTED EXCEPT FRANGIEH, KARAME AND RAYMOND EDDE (HE HAS REFUSED TO TAKE PART ON THE GROUNDS THAT RECONCILIATION TALKS WOULD DO NOTHING TO END THE DEADLOCK OVER THE SYRIAN AND ISRAELI PRESENCE IN LEBANON).

2. THE MEETING REACHED AGREEMENT ON AN AGENDA FOR THE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION TALKS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON 20 OCTOBER (VENUE STILL NOT DECIDED). NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC. THE AGREEMENT IS HAILED TODAY BY ALL SECTIONS OF LEBANESE OPINION AS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.

3. THE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LEBANESE MFA, KHALIL MEKKAWI, WHO REPRESENTED THE GOVERNMENT AT THE TALKS, TOLD US TODAY



THAT THE AGENDA CONSISTS OF 10 POINTS, COINED DELIBERATELY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS, WHICH ENCOMPASS THE FULL RANGE OF ISSUES FACING LEBANON. THE ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE.

4. MEANWHILE, THE AMAL AND PSP PARTICIPANTS DECIDED ABRUPTLY ON 13 OCTOBER, FOLLOWING THAT DAY'S SESSION, TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. PUBLICLY THEY HAVE SAID ONLY THAT THE MOVE IS IN PROTEST AGAINST CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE CEASEFIRE IS BEING APPLIED. (BEIRUT GOSSIP SUGGESTS THAT THE ARMY COMMANDER HAS DECIDED TO STOP THE PAY OF DRUZE SOLDIERS WHO HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO TAKE LEAVE INDEFINITELY FOLLOWING PRESSURE FROM JUMBLATT TO DESERT.) THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET CONCLUDED ITS WORK ON A MANDATE FOR THE GREEK AND ITALIAN OBSERVERS. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME ON 13 OCTOBER THAT HE HAD HAD NO GUIDANCE FROM THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ON ANY DETAILS OF THEIR DUTIES (WHETHER THE OBSERVERS SHOULD BE MOBILE OR STATIC, ARMED OR UNARMED ETC).

PALMER

BT

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