

Amman, 25 October, 1983

Dear Mr. President,


You were kind enough to suggest, Sir, that you valued my counsel. I find it my duty as a long time friend of the United States and your good self, to write to you at this most ominous time in the history of the Middle East and the world. I do so as an Arab who has lived most of his life in the centre of events in this area. I do so as a free man, a soldier and a father of a soldier. I write to you in the aftermath of the most recent outrage perpetrated in Beirut which claimed the lives of many young American and French soldiers - members of the Multi-National Peace Keeping Force.

My message is, that if the arrival of that Force on Lebanese soil was a bluff, then the bluff has been called. It leaves the United States and its European partners and, indeed, the free world, the choice of either withdrawing urgently from Lebanon, and, by implication, leaving the Middle East to whatever is its destiny or taking the alternative course - if you have the resolve and the means - of calling for an urgent, total and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces from all sovereign Lebanese soil.

The said withdrawals must be of Israel and Syria in alphabetical order and within a reasonable limited time frame. This call must be accompanied by a demand that all factions in the Lebanon meet urgently to resolve all the Lebanese causes of past, present and possible future conflicts. Representatives of any faction who abstain from attending a final conference of Lebanese national reconciliation would bear the historic responsibilities towards their factions and communities in regard to their rights, for all times to come.

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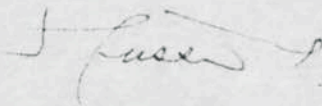
The conference, must thus aim at creating a just, free Lebanon, where the rights and dignity of all Lebanese are safeguarded together with their national sovereignty over all Lebanese soil. National Lebanese reconciliation must be accomplished and no further procrastination is either possible or acceptable. If the Lebanese, free of all external influences, are unwilling or unable to accomplish national reconciliation, then the Multi-National Force will withdraw once this has become apparent. Alternatively, it would withdraw once national reconciliation is attained.

Finally, the nations represented in the Multi-National Peace Keeping Force should act without reservation against any external power which refuses to withdraw its forces from all sovereign Lebanese soil within the set time frame. They should then expect the world community's total collaboration and support towards achieving these ends.

I see no other alternatives for you, Sir, your Government and people or your European partners in serving the cause of freedom and the world. The erosion of your nation's credibility and stature and the interests of so many should not be permitted to continue any further. Even assuming a remedy is possible beyond this point each passing day makes the dangers and the price more costly.

I am, Sir,

Your sincere friend,



The Honourable President Reagan  
The White House  
Washington D.C.  
U.S.A.



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NY EYES ALPHA

DESKBY 261830Z OCT 83

FROM AMMAN 261530Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 474 OF 26 OCT 83

MIPT: LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER  
FROM KING HUSSEIN TO PRESIDENT REAGAN.

BEGINS.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT.

YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SUGGEST, SIR, THAT YOU  
VALUED MY COUNSEL. I FOUND IT MY DUTY AS A LONG TIME  
FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES AND YOUR GOOD SELF, TO WRITE  
TO YOU AT THIS MOST OMINOUS TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE  
EAST AND THE WORLD. I DO SO AS AN ARAB WHO HAS LIVED  
MOST OF HIS LIFE IN THE CENTRE OF EVENTS IN THIS AREA.  
I DO SO AS A FREE MAN, A SOLDIER AND A FATHER OF A SOLDIER.  
I WRITE TO YOU IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MOST RECENT OUTRAGE  
PERPETRATED IN BEIRUT WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF MANY  
YOUNG AMERICAN AND FRENCH SOLDIERS—MEMBERS OF THE MULTI-  
NATIONAL PEACE KEEPING FORCE.

MY MESSAGE IS THAT, IF THE ARRIVAL OF THAT FORCE ON LEBANESE  
SOIL WAS A BLUFF, THEN THE BLUFF HAS BEEN CALLED. IT LEAVES  
THE UNITED STATES AND ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND, INDEED,  
THE FREE WORLD, THE CHOICE OF EITHER WITHDRAWING URGENTLY  
FROM LEBANON, AND, BY IMPLICATION, LEAVING THE MIDDLE EAST TO  
WHATEVER IS ITS DESTINY OR TAKING THE ALTERNATIVE COURSE—  
IF YOU HAVE THE RESOLVE AND THE MEANS—OF CALLING FOR AN URGENT  
TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM  
ALL SOVEREIGN LEBANESE SOIL.

THE SAID WITHDRAWALS MUST BE OF ISRAEL AND SYRIA IN ALPHABETICAL  
ORDER AND WITHIN A REASONABLE LIMITED TIME-FRAME. THIS CALL  
MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DEMAND THAT ALL FACTIONS IN THE LEBANON  
MEET URGENTLY TO RESOLVE ALL THE LEBANESE CAUSES OF PAST,  
PRESENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE CONFLICTS. REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY  
FACTION WHO ABSTAIN FROM ATTENDING A FINAL CONFERENCE OF LEBANESE  
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WOULD BEAR THE HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITIES  
TOWARDS THEIR FACTIONS AND COMMUNITIES IN REGARD TO THEIR  
RIGHTS FOR ALL TIMES TO COME.

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THE CONFERENCE , MUST TRUC AIM AT CREATING A JUST, FREE  
LEBANON , WHERE THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF ALL LEBANESE ARE  
SAFEGUARDED TOGETHER WITH THEIR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER  
ALL LEBANESE SOIL. NATIONAL LEBANESE RECONCILIATION MUST BE  
ACCOMPLISHED AND NO FURTHER PROCRASTINATION IS EITHER POSSIBLE  
OR ACCEPTABLE. IF THE LEBANESE, FREE OF ALL EXTERNAL  
INFLUENCES, ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH NATIONAL  
RECONCILIATION, THEN THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE WILL WITHDRAW  
ONCE THIS HAS BECOME APPARENT. ALTERNATIVELY, IT WOULD WITHDRAW  
ONCE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IS ATTAINED.

FINALLY, THE NATIONS REPRESENTED IN THE MULTI-NATIONAL PEACE  
KEEPING FORCE SHOULD ACT WITHOUT RESERVATION AGAINST ANY  
EXTERNAL POWER WHICH REFUSES TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM ALL  
SOVEREIGN LEBANESE SOIL WITHIN THE SET TIME FRAME.  
THEY SHOULD THEN EXPECT THE WORLD COMMUNITY'S TOTAL COLLABORATION  
AND SUPPORT TOWARDS ACHIEVING THESE ENDS.

IF SEE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVES FOR YOU, SIR, YOUR GOVERNMENT AND  
PEOPLE OR YOUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS IN SERVING THE CAUSE  
OF FREEDOM AND THE WORLD. THE EROSION OF YOUR NATIONS CREDIBILITY  
AND STATURE AND THE INTERESTS OF SO MANY SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED  
TO CONTINUE ANY FURTHER. EVEN ASSUMING A REMEDY IS POSSIBLE BEYOND  
THIS POINT EACH PASSING DAY MAKES THE DANGERS AND THE PRICE  
MORE COSTLY.

IF AM SIR,

YOUR SINCERE FRIEND, HUSSEIN.

ENDS.  
URWICK

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMITED  
NENAD  
MED  
DEFENCE DEPT  
PUSD  
NEWS DEPT  
UND  
NAD  
WED  
SED  
ECD(E)  
FINANCE DEPT  
PROTOCOL DEPT  
PS

PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR WRIGHT  
MR CARTLEDGE  
MR MACINNES  
MR ADAMS  
MR JAMES

COPIES TO:  
MOD DS11  
MR GOODALL )CABINET  
SIR R ARMSTRONG)OFFICE  
  
SIR P MOORE  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

<sup>2</sup>  
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Lebanon: Internal List. 174