

GRS 240  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM WASHINGTON 312336Z OCT 83  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3238 OF 31 OCTOBER  
INFO PRIORITY BEIRUT, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV

Prime Minister.

*This continued talk of  
retaliation is disturbing. I  
have asked that the Foreign  
Secretary since it is cabinet  
the week. A.J.C. 1/11*

MY TELNO 3214: LEBANON

1. IN A NETWORK TV INTERVIEW ON 30 OCTOBER DEPUTY SECRETARY DAM SAID THAT THERE WAS STILL NO SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACKS ON THE MNF ON 23 OCTOBER. BUT THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SO FAR AVAILABLE POINTED TO QUOTE RATHER DEEP UNQUOTE IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT. THE SYRIANS MUST HAVE BEEN COGNISANT OF WHAT WAS GOING ON. AS FOR RETALIATION, THE ADMINISTRATION WERE CONTINUING TO LOOK AT ALL THE OPTIONS.

2. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN TOLD A GROUP OF JEWISH-AMERICANS PRIVATELY LAST WEEK THAT THE U S QUOTE HAD SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT THIS HORRENDOUS ACT INVOLVED IRANIAN TERRORISTS AND THEY WERE FACILITATED IN THEIR ENTRY AND IN THE PROVISION OF THE MUNITIONS BY THE SYRIANS UNQUOTE.

3. ASKED IN A SEPARATE TV INTERVIEW FOR HIS VIEW OF POSSIBLE US/ISRAELI OFFENSIVE ACTION IN RETALIATION FOR THE ATTACKS, THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER EMPHASISED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED THE IDF TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON. THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR INDUCEMENT TO THE SYRIANS TO WITHDRAW ALSO. THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT THE U S TO TAKE ANY MILITARY ACTION IN LEBANON, BUT WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN WHAT THE U S WISHED TO DO IN AN EAST/WEST CONTEXT.

WRIGHT

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THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED