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TO IMMEDIATE BONN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 555 OF 8 NOVEMBER

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU AT REQUEST OF DEPT WAS
SENT TO PARIS TELEGRAM NUMBER 563 OF 8-11-83
AND TO IMMEDIATE ROME
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
INFO PRIORITY BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV

MY TELNO 1870 TO WASHINGTON: LEBANON: US RETALIATION

1. I AM STILL VERY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF US RETALIATION FOR THE 23 OCTOBER BOMBING. IT IS CLEAR FROM OUR RECENT EXCHANGES WITH THE AMERICANS THAT THEY ARE SET ON TAKING SOME ACTION WHICH WILL IN EFFECT BE RETALIATION, THOUGH IT WILL BE PRESENTED AS SELF DEFENCE. THEY HAVE DECIDED OR ARE CLOSE TO DECIDING THAT THE CULPRITS ARE ISLAMIC AMAL, AND ACTION IS LIKELY TO BE TARGETED AGAINST THEM.
2. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE FORM THEIR ACTION TAKES. THEORETICALLY IT MIGHT BE AN OPERATION OF 'SURGICAL PRECISION' BUT IN PRACTICE IT IS FAR MORE LIKELY TO SPILL OVER AND TO HAVE WIDE EFFECTS, EG CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND INVOLVEMENT OF LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN OR SYRIAN ELEMENTS. THERE IS ALSO THE MAJOR ISRAELI COMPLICATION CONSIDERED IN MY TUR.
3. PLEASE DISCUSS THIS URGENTLY WITH THE FRENCH/ITALIANS AT A HIGH LEVEL. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW IF THEY HAVE ANY ACTION IN HAND TO INFLUENCE THE US AWAY FROM THESE DAMAGING POSSIBILITIES. I SHOULD ALSO BE GLAD TO KNOW HOW THEY MIGHT REACT, FOR EXAMPLE IN CASE OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - A) A SUCCESSFUL 'SURGICAL' ACTION BY THE US
 - B) A MESSY ACTION BY THE U.S.
 - C) ACTION BY THE ISRAELIS IN WHICH THEY APPEAR TO BE ACTING AS US AGENTS
 - D) OPEN US/ISRAELI COLLABORATION.
4. PLEASE REPEAT REPLY TO BONN (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY).

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