

OBO 015/09

IMMEDIATE

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GRS175

UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 082340Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3362 OF 8 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, ROME, BONN(FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY),
PRIORITY BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV

LEBANON: POSSIBLE US RETALIATION

1. PRESIDENT REAGAN TOLD A KOREAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM INTERVIEWER ON 7 NOVEMBER THAT HE ADMIRED THE RESTRAINT SHOWN BY THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT AFTER THE RANGOON BOMBING. IT WAS VERY EASY AND ONLY HUMAN TO WANT TO STRIKE OUT IN RETALIATION: HE HAD FELT THAT ABOUT THE TRAGEDY IN BEIRUT. "BUT GETTING THE PEOPLE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE AND DOING SOMETHING TO INDICATE THAT TERRORISM DOES HAVE ITS PUNISHMENT IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM JUST BLINDLY STRIKING OUT." THE MAIN THING WAS TO SHOW THAT TERRORISM DID NOT WORK AND THAT TERRORIST ACTS WERE NOT GOING TO DRIVE THE US AWAY.

WRIGHT

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