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PS/MR WCE  
PS/FUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR EBERTON  
SIR J BULLARD  
ED/NEAD  
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DESKBY 181230Z  
FM PARIS 181130Z NOV 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1058 OF 18 NOVEMBER  
INFO PRIORITY BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK,  
TEL AVIV, MOSCOW, ROME  
INFO SAVING UKDEL NATO

MY TELNO 1050 (NOT TO ALL): FRENCH AIRSTRIKE IN LEBANON.

1. THIS MORNING'S FRENCH PRESS CONTAINS SUGGESTIONS THAT ANOTHER STRIKE MIGHT BE IN PROSPECT.

2. CHEYSSON IS IN INDONESIA, GUTMANN AND BONNEFOUS (SECRETARY GENERAL AND MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR AT THE QUAI) ARE IN MOSCOW. I SPOKE THIS MORNING TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, LUCET. I SAID I HAD SO FAR RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT I THOUGHT THAT AFTER YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH M. CHEYSSON ON THE SUBJECT (CF YOUR TELNO 562 OF 5 NOVEMBER) YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED TO HAVE RECEIVED NO WARNING OF FRENCH ACTIONS WHICH COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SECURITY OF BRITISH TROOPS IN THE MNF. LUCET SAID HE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INFORMATION TO GIVE ME ON THE SUBJECT APART FROM THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ABOUT THE RAID ITSELF (TUR) AND BY PRESIDENT MITTERRAND IN HIS TV APPEARANCE THE NIGHT BEFORE (OUR TELNO 1053 (NOT TO ALL)). ANY PRESS REPORTS ABOUT FURTHER FRENCH ACTION COULD ONLY BE PURE SPECULATION. LUCET EVIDENTLY DID NOT EXPECT ME TO BE CONTENT WITH THIS REPLY BUT SAID HE COULD NOT ADD TO IT. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER THE HEADS OF THE QUAI.

FCO PASS SAVING UKDEL NATO

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URGENT

*MS*

Prime Minister.

*AR 12/11*

BEIRUT, THURSDAY - GUNMEN FIRED THREE ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADES AT FRENCH POSITIONS IN CENTRAL BEIRUT TONIGHT, SEVERAL HOURS AFTER FRENCH FIGHTERS BOMBED SHI'ITE MOSLEM MILITANTS IN EASTERN LEBANON, STATE-RUN BEIRUT RADIO SAID.

THE REPORT DID NOT MENTION CASUALTIES. IT SAID THERE WAS A CLASH BETWEEN THE FRENCH TROOPS AND THE GUNMEN, WHO WERE NOT IDENTIFIED.

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