

LUK

540
FDW G 319/23
OO NEW DELHI
PP BEIRUT
PP DAMASCUS
PP TEL AVIV
PP AMMAN
PP CAIRO
PP JEDDA
GRS 185

RECEIVED	
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION	
NEW DELHI	
CHANCERY BUILDING	
24 NOV 1983	
DUPLICATES	
OF LETTER
OF ENCLOSURES
LOCATION

Prime Minister.

*It looks as though Weinberger
went too far. A-J-C-24*

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
FM WASHINGTON 231806Z NOV 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3534 OF 23 NOVEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI (FOR PS/SECRETARY OF STATE) PRIORITY BEIRUT,
DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, CAIRO, JEDDA.

YOUR TEL NO 854 TO NEW DELHI: LEBANON

1. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, WEINBERGER SAID THAT THE 23 OCTOBER BOMB ATTACKS IN BEIRUT WERE CARRIED OUT BY IRANIANS WITH THE SPONSORSHIP, KNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORITY OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. HE DESCRIBED THE EVIDENCE OF THE IRANIAN AND SYRIAN CONNECTION AS AN ACCUMULATION OF A NUMBER OF REPORTS IN WHICH THE US HAD CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE. HE BRUSHED ASIDE QUESTIONS ABOUT REPRISALS, SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT MADE QUOTE ANY PROMISE OF RETALIATION UNQUOTE.

2. QUESTIONED LATER, THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO TALK FURTHER ABOUT RETALIATION. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN ARE REPORTED TO HAVE STOOD BY EARLIER STATEMENTS ACCUSING SYRIA OF A DEGREE OF RESPONSIBILITY BUT NOT OF QUOTE SPONSORING UNQUOTE THE ATTACKS.

3. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE DENIED TO US THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY NEW EVIDENCE OR FRESH US ASSESSMENT OF THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY OR INSPIRATION FOR THE BOMBINGS.

WRIGHT

NNNN