

PS
PS/MR WCE
~~PS/PUS~~
~~SIR J LEAHY~~
MR EBERTON.
SIR J BULLARD
ED/NEHAD
ED/ED
ED/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10

CF

FCO have now confirmed that the meeting with Gemayel arranged for 30 Nov is postponed.

IMMEDIATE
ADVANCE COPY

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ED/CONSULAR DEPT

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FM BEIRUT 240920Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE F.C.O.

TELEGRAM NUMBER 669 OF 24 NOVEMBER 1983

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, ROME, PARIS, DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV.

YOUR TELNO 693: PRESIDENT GEMAYEL'S TRAVELS

1. LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TELEPHONED ME TODAY. HE SAID GEMAYEL HAD NOW BEEN OFFERED AN APPOINTMENT ON 1 DECEMBER IN WASHINGTON BY PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HAD ACCEPTED EVEN THOUGH HIS OFFER TO COME TO LONDON THEN WAS STILL OUTSTANDING. HE HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND. HE NOW PLANNED TO GO TO ROME ON 28/29 NOVEMBER AND THENCE TO WASHINGTON. THEREAFTER HE WOULD RETURN, HOPEFULLY, FOR HIS SYRIAN VISIT AND PERHAPS VISITS TO OTHER ARAB CAPITALS.

2. HE WOULD LIKE TO PAY A VISIT AT LEISURE TO LONDON, PERHAPS IN MID-DECEMBER, BEFORE A SECOND SESSION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE DID NOT WANT TO VISIT LONDON ON THE WAY BACK FROM WASHINGTON. HE HAD OUR QUOTE SENSITIVITIES UNQUOTE IN MIND.

3. I ASKED HIM WHETHER THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT CALLING AT LONDON BETWEEN ROME AND WASHINGTON. HE SAID THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY ON THE MORNING OF 30 NOVEMBER BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT THE PRESIDENT ON THIS. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I HAD NO AUTHORITY TO OFFER THIS DATE: I WAS JUST SEEKING TO ANTICIPATE A QUESTION FROM LONDON.

4. SALEM SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED PALMER (IN MY ABSENCE FROM THE OFFICE) TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT DID NOT (NOT) WISH TO STOP OVER IN LONDON BETWEEN ROME AND WASHINGTON. HE CONFIRMED THAT GEMAYEL WOULD LIKE PLANNING TO GO AHEAD FOR A SEPARATE VISIT TO LONDON IN DECEMBER.

MIERS