

SECRET

4738 - 1

GRS 173

SECRET

FROM FCO 041617Z DEC 83

TO ROUTINE DAMASCUS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 227 OF 4 DECEMBER

INFO ATHENS (FOR PS/SECRETARY OF STATE) BEIRUT, WASHINGTON,

MODUK, PARIS, ROME, UKMIS NEW YORK

FOLLOWING IS CORRECTED VERSION OF MYTEL NO 226

BEIRUT TELNO 693: LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM GENERAL VESSEY, CHAIRMAN OF US JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, TO CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF.

BEGINS:

YESTERDAY ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS FIRED AGAINST US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OVER LEBANON. WE HAVE CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE SYRIANS KNEW THEY WERE FIRING ON US AIRCRAFT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE DAYS THAT SUCH FIRING HAS OCCURRED AFTER OUR DEMARCHE TO THE SYRIANS. THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO ATTACK. WE WILL ATTACK AT 040530Z DECEMBER. OUR COMMANDER ON THE GROUND IN BEIRUT HAS BEEN INFORMED TO CO-ORDINATE WITH HIS MNF COUNTER-PARTS. I WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILS WHEN WE MEET WITH YOU IN BRUSSELS/PARIS. ENDS

2. MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS AT 0525Z ON 4 DECEMBER. WE ARE CONSULTING URGENTLY ABOUT WHAT ACTION TO RECOMMEND AND SHALL KEEP IN TOUCH.

HOWE

MIDDLE EAST

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION

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ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
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SECRET

SECRET

4728 - 1

ZZ DAMASCUS

OO ATHENS

OO BEIRUT

OO ROME

GRS 168

SECRET

FM FCO 041028Z DEC 83

TO FLASH DAMASCUS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 226 OF 04 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE ATHENS(FOR PS/SECRETARY OF STATE) BEIRUT, WASHINGTON,
MODUK, PARIS, ROME, UKMIS NEW YORK.

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