

SECRET

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ZZ BEIRUT
ZZ DAMASCUS
OO TEL AVIV
GRS 157
SECRET
FM FCO 041204Z DEC 83
TO FLASH ATHENS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 554 OF 4 DECEMBER
INFO FLASH BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, WASHINGTON, IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV, MODUK.

FOLLOWING FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY.

LEBANON: US ACTION.

1. SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS AND THOSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER WE RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESS LINE SHOULD BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS. NEWS DEPARTMENT AND MOD HAVE MEANWHILE BEEN STALLING. FURTHER ADVICE ON THE SUBSTANCE FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY.

2. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED LINE:

A) WE WERE NOT (NOT) CONSULTED ABOUT AMERICAN ACTION BUT WERE INFORMED OF IT ON THE MILITARY NET VERY SHORTLY BEFOREHAND. THERE WAS NO (NO) QUESTION OF CO-ORDINATION WITH US.

B) WE SHALL BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH OUR FRENCH AND ITALIAN MNF PARTNERS, WITH COLLEAGUES IN THE TEN AND THE AMERICANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

C) IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO NOTHING TO FURTHER INCREASE THE TENSION THOUGH EACH MNF CONTRIBUTOR MUST BE FREE TO TAKE THE DEFENSIVE ACTION IT THINKS FIT.

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MIDDLE EAST

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