

E. R.  
PRIME MINISTER

LEBANON

The latest information is as follows.

The attack on American reconnaissance aircraft yesterday consisted of about ten Sam missiles and 500 artillery rounds but no US aircraft were hit.

Today American aircraft attacked targets ten miles east of Beirut (not in the Beqaa as previously reported). It is believed that twenty-four carrier-based aircraft took part. Two were destroyed and one American pilot is in Syrian hands.

Michael Heseltine has had meetings in London about this today. He sent you a message describing the situation (attached) and said that he would be talking to Weinberger and that you might want to talk to President Reagan.

I have told his office that he should not get too far out in front, you were not disposed to have a row with the Americans about this. You would however like a report on his talk with Weinberger and his thoughts on the next steps. Then, you and the Foreign Secretary would let London have a clear steer from here on how this matter is to be handled.

AJC ?

4 December, 1983





10 DOWNING STREET

Joha ✓

I was informed at 06.30 this morning by MOD that the Americans launched an air strike against Syrian held positions in the Bekaa valley at 05.30 (UK time). No further details are available.

It seems the Americans (via their Embassy here) informed the CDS (MOD) at 5.15. The Commander of BRITFORCES was given a similar warning at short notice and was only able to report his knowledge PTO

of the intended air strike  
to MOD at 05.25

Steve

4/12/85



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

*mf*

The Ministry of Defence have just informed me that the UK Armed Forces in the Lebanon came under fire last night. They were hit by 3-4 rocket rounds and several hundred machine gun rounds. There was one very minor casualty.

The MOD believe it was a deliberate attack and are reviewing security arrangements:

*Steve Geary*

S.P. Geary  
Duty Clerk

3 December 1983

*approx 10.50am.*