



EMBASSY OF THE  
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

cc MIAHAR  
OFS  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T203<sup>MA</sup>/83

Dear Prime Minister,

In the present critical circumstances which the world in general, and the Middle East in particular, are undergoing, and what they entail in terms of aggression and development and widening of this aggression, I write to you to point out a number of grave developments in our region. Such developments have become a threat to peace and security, not only to this sensitive region, but also to peace and security in the world at large. The gravest of these developments are the following:

1. The U.S. military escalation in the Lebanon, and the involvement of the U.S. forces in the internal Lebanese problem, and their participation in the fighting against some parties.

2. The development of U.S. military escalation from involvement in the internal fighting to launching aggression against Syrian forces in the Lebanon. The last of such acts of aggression were the air Raids which the U.S. air crafts carried out yesterday against our forces positions in the Lebanon, and the consequent declarations that were characterized by threats to continue such aggressive acts against our forces.

The U.S. forces have come to Lebanon under the pretext of helping in establishing peace in this country, but no sooner they turned to forces that threaten peace and security in the Lebanon and the region. What we fear is that the region has come to be on the brink of another Vietnam.

3. The strategic agreement concluded between the American President, Ronald Reagan, and the Prime Minister of Israel, Itzhak Shamir, during the latter's visit to Washington. According to this agreement, the interests of the United States, a Super power, have been linked to those of Israel, in a way that the huge potentialities and capabilities of the United States are put in the service of the Israeli expansionist aggressive projects. It has become clear that the two sides have agreed to launch a direct aggressive action



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against Syria and her forces in the Lebanon, and to take other actions that violate the unity of Lebanon and destroy its future. The Israeli air raids against some lebanese towns and villages, and the raids against the Syrian positions the next day, were the first stage of a joint American - Israeli aggressive plan.

4. The pressures exerted by the American and Israeli governments to hamper the process of national reconciliation, and to push some lebanese parties to aggravate the internal situation in the Lebanon in order to frustrate the possibility of achieving reconciliation among the lebanese parties, so as to keep Lebanon an explosive hot bed of tension.

Referring to these developments and to their grave consequences that threaten Syria's security and future and the people of Lebanon, I would like to draw your attention to them because they constitute a serious threat to peace and security in our region and to the world at large. Moreover, these developments reveal the United States aggressive method and its policy that looks down upon peoples, as if the world has become a jungle where might and aggression prevail.

I am sure that you are aware of the dangers of the continuation of this aggressive method and the threats against a United Nations member State which has always tried to maintain its independence, defend its territory and its national interests against any aggression.

I am also confident that once your government realizes the danger of this explosive situation, it will take every measure to help us put an end to this aggressive policy and will help us defend our independence, sovereignty and national dignity.

Finally please accept my deepest regards and best wishes hoping that your people will always enjoy prosperity and progress.

Hafez Assad  
President of the Syrian Arab Republic

Damascus,  
5 December 1983



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister.

London SW1A 2AH

A.J.C.  $\frac{2}{12}$ .

8 December 1983

Dear John,

Syria

The Syrian Embassy this afternoon delivered to the department the enclosed text of a message to the Prime Minister from President Asad dated 5 December.

We shall let you have a draft reply as soon as possible.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

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