PS PS/AR DCE PS/FUS SIR J LEARY WR SPERTON. SIR J BULLARD ED/NEWAD ED/URD ED/URD

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FOR INFORMATION IMMEDIATE DAMASCUS, WASHINGTON, BEHRUT, TEL AVIV, ATHENS (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY).

FROM PS/MR LUCE.

US/SYRIBA.

- 1. MR LUCE HAS BEEN TACKLED BY THE PRESS BOTH IN DAMASCUS AND ON HIS ARRIVAL AT KUWANT ABOUT HMG'S ATTHITUDE TO THE US RAND ON SYRMAN POSINTHIONS ON 4 DECEMBER. HE TOOK THE LINE THAT THE IMPORTANT THING NOW WAS TO END THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND TO WORK FOR RECONCULINATION THROUGH AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA TALKS.
- 2. REACTION IN THE ARAB WORLD TO THE PRESS LINE BEING USED IN LONDON, WHICH HIS BEING INTERPRETED AS INDICATING SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICAN RAND, HAS BEEN VERY STRONG. BOTH SYRMAN AND KUWANTIN MINISTERS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEMR DISAPPOINTMENT AT A LINE WHICH THEY BELIEVE INDENTIFIES US FIRMLY WHITH US ACTIONS IN THE LEBANON. MR LUCE BELIEVES THAT THE FORMULA HE HAS WHICH SEEKS TO RETAIN OUR CREDIBILITY IN THE ARAB WORLD AT A TIME WHEN ANTID-AMERICAN FEELING IS RUNNING HIGH, BUT AVOIDS APPORTHONING BLAME FOR THE WEEKEND'S EVENTS, HIS THE MOST BALANCED AND SENSIBLE LINE. HE VERY MUCH HOPES THAT HIN ANSWEREING ANY FURTHER QUERNES WE CAN STRCK TO THIS FORMULA.

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