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Mr Coles
13/12

THE RIGHT HON.
PRIME MINISTER
MARGARET THATCHER
10 DOWING ST. LONDON

R.12

THE PERMANENT BUREAU FOR THE DRUZE INSTITUTIONS PRESENTS TO
THE RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER ITS BEST RESPECTS AND TAKES THE
OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM YOU THAT THE DESPITE THE PERPETRATED MURDER
OF THE HEAD OF THE DRUZE RELIGIOUS COURTS THE HON. SHEIKH HALIM
TAKIEDDINE THE DRUZE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS COMPLIED WITH
THE WISHES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF LEBANON
AND LIFTED THE SIEGE OF DEIR-EL-KAMAR IN ORDER TO ALLOW ITS BESIGED
REFUGEES INCLUDINV 4000 PHALANGISTS MILITIAMEN TO CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WITH THEIR FAMILIES

WE ONLY HOPE THAT THIS GESTURE WILL CONSTRIIBUTE TO A QUICK RETURN
TO PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY CO-EXISTENCE AMONG THE DRUZE AND CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITIES IN LEBANON

VERY RESPECTFULLY

THE PERMANENT BUREAU
FOR THE DRUZE INSTITUTIONS
BEIRUT LEBANON P.O.BOX: 2500

COL BTA970 10 4000 2500

for enquiries dial the number shown in your dialling instructions



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01- 233 8798

BF?

F Gallagher Esq

Your reference

BEIRUT

Our reference

Date

20 December 1983

Dear Francis

Dub
22/12

PERMANENT BUREAU FOR THE DRUZE INSTITUTIONS

1. I enclose a message which the Prime Minister has received from the above. Subject to your views I should be grateful if you could arrange for onward transmission of a reply along the lines of the enclosed draft.

Yours ever

J D Bevan

J D Bevan
Near East and North Africa Dept

→ cc Mr. Bourger, Print Office



NENAC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 December, 1983

PS
PS/Mr W.C.
Mr. E. J. P. O.

Mr. Bevan

Handwritten scribbles and initials

See ltr,

Lebanon

I enclose a message which the Prime Minister has received from the Permanent Bureau for the Druze Institutions. I should be grateful if you would arrange for an appropriate reply to be sent.

for ev
for ltr.

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

	DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note	TYPE: Draft/Final
	FROM: F H Gallagher, British Embassy, Beirut. DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:	Reference
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Top Secret Secret Confidential Restricted Unclassified	TO: Permanent Bureau for the Druze Institutions, Beirut, Lebanon. PO BOX 2500	Your Reference Copies to:
PRIVACY MARKING	SUBJECT:	
.....In Confidence	Thank you for your message of 10 December to the Prime	
CAVEAT.....	Minister. I have been asked to reply.	
	<p>The British Government thoroughly condemns the murder of the Hon Sheikh Halim Takieddine. We welcome the restraint shown by the Druze forces in the aftermath of this deplorable incident. The British Government is convinced that Lebanon's problems cannot be solved by violence.</p> <p>We recognise the decision to lift the seige of Deir al Kamar as an important humanitarian gesture. We too hope that this will facilitate a speedy return to peaceful co-existence among all communities in Lebanon. The British Government ^{intends} wishes to contribute, within the limits of its resources, to the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation in the Beirut and Shouf area. We shall continue to do all we can to help the Lebanese people work out a peaceful solution to their problems.</p>	
Enclosures—flag(s).....		

UNCLASSIFIED

GRS 330
RESTRICTED
FROM DAMASCUS 081030Z DEC
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 404 OF 8 DECEMBER 1983
INFO ROUTINE BEIRUT

MS

MIPT: DRUZE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO INTER ALIOS (LAST TWO WORDS UNDERLINED) MRS THATCHER AND MR KINNOCK

BEGINGS. THE DRUZE COMMUNITY WHICH REMAINS FAITHFULLY ATTACHED TO THE UNITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON AND WHICH HAS FOUGHT ITS HARDEST BATTLE TO PRESERVE THE DEMOCRATIC AND PLURALISTIC CHARACTER OF THE LEBANESE SYSTEM CONJURES YOU AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PUT A STOP TO THE AGRESSION THAT HAS BEEN CONDUCTED AGAINST IT IN THE LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS. ATTACKED BY THE PHALANGIST MILITIA, SHELLED BY THE LEBANESE ARMY, BOMBARDED BY THE AMERICAN FORCES, THE DRUZE COMMUNITY IS THREATENED IN ITS VERY EXISTENCE. ITS VILLAGES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, IT POPULATION DISPLACED, ITS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LIFE PARALYSED. FURTHERMORE, AND ALONG WITH THE DRUZE, ALL OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN LEBANON HAVE BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY DECIMATED WHICHEVER FAITH THEY MAY BELONG TO THROUGH INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ATTACKS, BUOMBARDMENTS, REPRISALS FOP NON-COMMITTED ACTS, INTIMIDATION AND SEGREGATIONIST PRACTICE. AFTER HAVING AGREED TO A CEASEFIRE, TAKEN PART IN THE GENEVA DIALOGUE, ACCEPTED DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSITIONS, LIFTED THE BLOCKADE ON DEIR EL KAMAR, WE ARE PAID BACK IN TURN BY A PURSUIT OF THE BOMBARDMENT BY THE PRO-PHALANGIST LEBANESE ARMY AND A DIRECT INTERVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, NAVAL AND GROUND FORCES AGAINST OUR CITIES AND VILLAGES.

YOUR INTERVENTION IN ORDER TO PUT A STOP TO THIS ESCALATION, REESTABLISH THE DIALOGUE AND SAVE THE POPULATION OF LEBANON IN THEIR VERY LIFE AND LIBERTY IS OF THE DIREST NECESSITY.

ENDS.

LUCAS

MIDDLE EAST
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