

GR 170

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BEIRUT 271635Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE F.C.O.

TELEGRAM NUMBER 738 OF 27 DECEMBER 1983

INFO PRIORITY DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, PARIS, ROME, WASHINGTON, MODUK

*Prime Minister*

*To confirm.*

*2ms  
28/12*

LEBANON: MNF

1. AS COMMANDER BRITFORLEB HAS REPORTED ON HIS CHANNELS, TWO SOLDIERS FROM OUR MNF CONTINGENT WERE SLIGHTLY INJURED THIS MORNING (27 DECEMBER) WHEN A BRITFORLEB PATROL WAS THE SUBJECT OF A BOMB ATTACK.

2. THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN AN AREA OF SEMI-DERELICT BUILDINGS TO THE EAST OF THE ST GEORGES AND PHOENICIA HOTELS ON A ROUTE USED REGULARLY BY ALL FOUR MNF CONTINGENTS. A DEVICE PLACED IN A BUILDING (OR A PARKED CAR) DETONATED (ALMOST CERTAINLY BY REMOTE CONTROL) AS THE REAR VEHICLE OF A THREE-CAR PATROL PASSED BY IT. THE TWO SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN TREATED AT THE US MARINE BASE AND ARE NOW SAFELY BACK AT AL HADATH. THEY WERE LUCKY TO GET AWAY SO LIGHTLY.

3. THE FORCE COMMANDER AND I CONSIDER THAT THIS ATTACK WAS AIMED AT THE MNF IN GENERAL AND NOT NECESSARILY AGAINST THE BRITISH CONTINGENT IN PARTICULAR. IT TOOK PLACE IN AN AREA WHERE SUPPORTERS OF AMAL AND KURDS PREDOMINATE.

PALMER

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMMED

NEWAD

MEM

DEFENCE DEPT

FUSD

NEWS DEPT

UND

NAD

WED

SED

EOC(E)

FINANCE DEPT

PROTOCOL DEPT

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

SIR J BULLARD

SIR J LEAHY

MR WRIGHT

MR CARTLEDGE

MR MACINNES

MR ADAMS

MR EGERTON

MR JENKINS

COPIES TO:

MOD DSTI

MR GOODALL ) CABINET  
SIR R ARMSTRONG ) OFFICE

SIR P MOORE  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE