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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 January 1984

Dear John,

Lebanon: Message to the Prime Minister from the Druze Community

I enclose the original of a message to the Prime Minister from the Lebanese Druze Community, which was handed to our Embassy in Damascus on 7 December. You will have already seen the text in Damascus Telno 404. Identical messages have been sent to a wide range of European political leaders, including Mr Kinnock.

Sir Geoffrey Howe does not think that the message merits a reply from the Prime Minister. He proposes instead that Mr Luce, who met Mr Jumblatt in London on 28 November and spoke to him during his subsequent visit to Damascus, should send him an acknowledgement on the Prime Minister's behalf. I enclose a message cast in the form of a telegram to Damascus, which we shall despatch if the Prime Minister is content.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Ricketts".

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

4 January 1984

Lebanon: Message to the Prime Minister from  
the Druze Community

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Thank you for your letter of 4 January.

I am sure that the Prime Minister would agree with Sir Geoffrey Howe that the message from the Druze community does not merit a reply from the Prime Minister herself and that Mr. Luce should send an acknowledgement on her behalf. The draft enclosed with your letter seems admirable for the purpose and I am sure that the Prime Minister will be content for it to be despatched (you may wish to substitute "bringing" for "bring" in line 18).

ALCOUS

*Sig*

Peter Ricketts Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats	Precedence/Deskby
		CONFIDENTIAL	PRIORITY
ZCZC	1	ZCZC	
GRS	2	GRS	
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL	
CAVEATS	4		
DESKBY	5		
FM FCO	6	FM FCO	
PRE/ADD	7	TO PRIORITY DAMASCUS	
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER	
	9	INFO ROUTINE BEIRUT	
	10	YOUR TELNOS 403 AND 404: MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER FROM DRUZE	
	11	COMMUNITY	
	12	1. Please pass following reply from Mr Luce to Walid Jumblatt.	
	13	BEGINS: I am writing to thank you for the message from the Druze	
	14	community addressed to Mrs Thatcher, which you gave our Ambassador	
	15	in Damascus last month.	
	16	As you will know from our recent conversations, the British	
	17	Government remains firmly committed to helping to restore the	
	18	unity and independence of Lebanon, and to bring to an end the	
	19	suffering which recent conflicts there have inflicted on all	
	20	Lebanese communities. We recognise that recent decisions by the	
	21	Druze community, for example in lifting the siege of Deir al Kamar,	
///	22	have made a constructive contribution to restoring peace in	
//	23	Lebanon. We hope that our contingent with the Multinational Force	
/	24	will continue to be helpful in promoting conditions in which the	
	25	all-important process of national reconciliation can move forward.	
		NNNN ends telegram	Catchword We
		BLANK	
		File number	Distribution Lebanon/MNF
		Dept	
		Drafted by (Block capitals) PS	
		Telephone number 233 4641	
		Authorised for despatch	
		Comcen reference	Time of despatch



OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Page 2
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1 <<<<  
2 We shall continue to do what we can to impress on all concerned  
3 the need to avoid any escalation of the conflict in Lebanon, and  
4 to give priority instead to working out a peaceful solution to  
5 Lebanon's problems. With best wishes for 1984, Richard Luce.  
6 ENDS.  
7  
8 HOWE  
9 NNNN  
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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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F4 JAN 1984

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مكتب العلاقات العامة - دمشق

التاريخ:

الرقم: 1

حضرة:

Her Excellency Mrs Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
London

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 the international community to put a stop to the aggression 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, its population displaced, its economic and cultural life paralysed. Furthermore and along with the druze, all other democratic forces of Lebanon have been systematically decimated whichever faith





مكتب العلاقات العامة - دمشق

التاريخ:

الرقم: 2

المحترم

حضرة:

they may belong to through individual and collective attacks, bombardments, reprisals for non-committed acts, intimidation and segregationist practice. After having agreed to a cease-fire, 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 populations of Lebanon in their very life and liberty is of the direst necessity.

M. Abou Chakra

W. Joumlatt

Mohamed Abou Chakra  
Sheikh Akl of the druze  
community

Walid Joumlatt  
President of the Socialist  
Progressist Party



مكتب العلاقات العامة - دمشق

Her Excellency Mrs Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
London