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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 53 OF 6 JANUARY
INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, MOSCOW, CAIRO
PRIORITY PARIS, ROME, MOSCOW, THE HAGUE, JERUSALEM AND URMIS NEW YORK
YOUR TELNO 4 TO URMIS NEW YORK & LEBANON

1. PELLETREAU TOLD US THIS EVENING THAT RUMSFELD HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON TRYING TO PROMOTE AGREEMENT ON THE LEBANESE SECURITY PLAN. HE HAS SEEN GENAYEL AND HARIRI AND VISITED ISRAEL BRIEFLY TODAY. THE ISRAELIS HAVE AGREED TO URGE JUNBLATT TO WITHDRAW HIS LATEST OBJECTIONS TO THE PLAN. PELLETREAU THOUGHT THAT RUMSFELD MIGHT GO TO SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE THE TRIPARTITE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON 8 JANUARY AND VISIT SYRIA EARLY NEXT WEEK. BUT HIS TRAVEL PLANS WERE NOT YET FIRM.

2. PELLETREAU SAID THAT MWF REDEPLOYMENT DID NOT FORM PART OF THE GENERAL SECURITY PLAN NOW BEING NEGOTIATED BUT REPRESENTED LEBANESE IDEAS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED ONCE THE SECURITY PLAN WERE PUT INTO EFFECT. FOR THE MOMENT THEY WERE ON THE BACK-BURNER. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER JUNBLATT'S OBJECTIONS TO THE SECURITY PLAN (BEIRUT TELNO 6) WERE INSPIRED BY THE SYRIANS OR MADE ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. THEY WERE RELATIVELY MINOR ISSUES. PELLETREAU HOPED THAT JUNBLATT COULD BE BROUGHT BACK INTO LINE IN TIME FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE ON 9 JANUARY. THERE WAS AS YET NO RELIABLE INDICATION OF THE SYRIAN ATTITUDE. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN RIYAD WOULD BE CRUCIAL.

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3. PELLETREAU SAID THAT DETAILED TIMINGS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECURITY PLAN HAD BEEN WORKED OUT. ON THE FIRST DAY THE LAF WOULD DEPLOY ALONG THE COAST FROM THE AWALI RIVER TO THE MAJFOUH RIVER TAKING OVER AN LF CHECKPOINT THERE. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY THE ISF WOULD TAKE UP POSITIONS IN THE VILLAGES IN THE KHARROUB. ON THE THIRD DAY THE LF AND PSP MILITIAS WOULD WITHDRAW. THE ISF WOULD DEPLOY TO THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT A WEEK LATER. PELLETREAU CONFIRMED THAT BERRI AND SHAMSEDDINE HAD AGREED TO ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS.

4. PELLETREAU SAID THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO BRIEF URDUHART ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN LEBANON. HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF GREATER UN INVOLVEMENT. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, PELLETREAU SAID SOME ATTRACTION IN POSSIBLE USE OF THE UN FLAG IN BEIRUT PROVIDED THAT THIS WERE REQUESTED BY THE LEBANESE RATHER THAN THE MNF CONTRIBUTORS. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE CURRENTLY 58 UNTSO OBSERVERS IN BEIRUT WITH NOT MUCH TO DO.

5. DEPUTY SECRETARY DAM TOLD MR WHITNEY TODAY THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME INTEREST IN REDEPLOYMENT OF THE MARINES THIS WAS NOT PART OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND FOR THE TIME BEING THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE. IN DAM'S VIEW THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT PRESENT WERE MANAGEABLE; CONGRESS WOULD NOT FORCE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MARINES.

WRIGHT

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