

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16

PS
PS/MR LUCE
PS/FUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR SPERTON
SIR J BULLARD
ED/NEAD
ED/ED
ED/URD

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE D10

ED/.....

ADVANCE COPY

ED/CONSULAR DEPT

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IMMEDIATE



FUSD (2)
NEWS D

CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 101600Z (FCO AND WASHINGTON)
FM RIYADH 101607Z JAN 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 009 OF 10 JANUARY.
AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, BEIRUT, JEDDA, DAMASCUS
FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

SECRETARY OF STATES VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA: LEBANON

- ON THE WAY IN FROM THE AIRPORT THIS AFTERNOON THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD A PRELIMINARY PRIVATE WORD WITH PRINCE SAUD ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIPARTITE FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HERE ON 3 JANUARY.
- PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT THE PRESS REPORTS OF THIS MEETING HAD BEEN MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN WAS WARRANTED. THE MEETING HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE LEBANESE SECURITY PLAN, SUBJECT TO ONE DETAIL WHICH REQUIRED FURTHER WORK IN THE SECURITY COMMITTEE. THE PLAN PROVIDED FOR SEPARATION OF THE VARIOUS MILITIAS AND THE STOCKPILING OF HEAVY WEAPONS AT PRESENT IN MILITIA HANDS.
- PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT IN GENERAL THE SYRIAN POSITION HAD HARDENED, INCLUDING ON THE 17 MAY AGREEMENT. THEY APPEARED NOW TO BE SITTING BACK AND AWAITING EVENETS.
- PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT EVERYONE WAS AWARE OF THE INCREASING ANXIETY AMONG MNF CONTRIBUTORS. HE BELIEVED THAT MNF WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT HOWEVER BE A GOOD THING: IT WOULD MAKE PRESIDENT GEMAYEL'S POSITION MORE DIFFICULT.

MUIR