

GRS 500  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DAMASCUS 110720Z JAN 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 24 OF 11 JANUARY

AND TO FLASH RIYADH (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY)

INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT

INFO ROUTINE JEDDA, TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME AND  
UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TELNO 6 (NOT TO ALL): JUMBLATT

1. I CALLED ON WALID JUMBLATT ON THE EVENING OF 10 JANUARY TO DELIVER MR LUCE'S MESSAGE. JUMBLATT WAS STAYING IN A PLUSH MODERN VILLA IN A HEAVILY GUARDED COMPOUND BELONGING TO RIFAT AL ASAD. HE WAS IN A GLOOMY, NOT TO SAY APOCALYPTIC, MOOD THOUGH HIS TONE GAVE RATHER AN IMPRESSION OF PLAY-ACTING.
2. JUMBLATT GAVE THE DRUZE REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE LOSS OF ABEY AND THE PROMOTION OF 'HAMANA OFFICERS' (QUERY PARA 2 OF BEIRUT TELNO 21) AS TWO REASONS WHY HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE SECURITY PLAN. BUT THESE WERE ONLY PART OF HIS DETAILED OBJECTIONS (UNSTATED) AND UNDERLYING THEM WAS HIS CONVICTION THAT THE PHALANGISTS INTEND TO ATTACK HIS PEOPLE AND THAT THE MARONITES WOULD NEVER GIVE UP THEIR MONOPOLY OF POWER. ARMED CONFLICT WAS INEVITABLE AND THE DRUZE WOULD HAVE TO DO THE BEST THEY COULD. 'IT IS 1860 ALL OVER AGAIN'.
3. THE GEMAYELS WERE INCORRIGIBLE. BASHIR HAD BEEN A BIG CRIMINAL AND A LITTLE THIEF. AMIN WAS A BIG THIEF AND A LITTLE CRIMINAL. THEY WERE ALL IN WITH THE ISRAELIS. THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LEBANESE ARMY, THE LEBANESE FORCES, THE ISF OR THE GENDARMERIE. THE ARMY HAD RECENTLY ARRESTED 400 MUSLIMS IN SABRA (PARA 4 OF BEIRUT TELNO 22). THERE WAS NO DEMOCRACY: AT MOUKHTARA THE PREVIOUS DAY HE HAD RECEIVED AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW IN THE PRESENCE OF NUMEROUS JOURNALISTS, YET NO REPORT OF THE MEETING HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS.
4. JUMBLATT RECITED THE FAMILIAR CRITICISMS OF THE 17 MAY AGREEMENT. GENEVA I HAD ACHIEVED NOTHING. THE RIYADH FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON 3 JANUARY HAD ACHIEVED NOTHING. THE MNF SHOULD GO HOME. I INTERJECTED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY TOLD MR LUCE THAT IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN GREAT BLOODSHED WOULD FOLLOW. JUMBLATT REPLIED THAT NEVERTHELESS HE THOUGHT THE AMERICANS WERE FIGHTING THE MUSLIMS SEMI CLN FRANCE'S MACHINATIONS (HE MENTIONED THAT FRANCOIS DE GROSSOAUVRE WAS STAYING IN THE NEIGHBOURING VILLA IN THE SAME COMPOUND) WOULD COME TO NAUGHT SEMI CLN THE BRITISH CONTINGENT WAS DOING NOTHING, AND THEY AND THE ITALIANS WOULD SOON BE IN THE SAME KIND OF TROUBLE AS THE OTHERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

/S. JUMBLATT



## CONFIDENTIAL

5. JUMBLATT WOULD HEAR NOTHING OF DISENGAGEMENT PLANS, POLITICAL SOLUTIONS, BROADER-BASED GOVERNMENTS OR ANY OTHER PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS. HE AGREED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION COULD PROMOTE ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM, BUT ARGUED THAT THIS WAS NO WORSE THAN THE CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISM OF THE MARONITES.

COMMENT

6. IF PROGRESS IN LEBANON DEPENDS ON JUMBLATT, THERE WILL BE NONE. BUT ON THIS FORM IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE HOW SERIOUSLY TO TAKE HIM AS A PARTICIPANT IN ANY 'NATIONAL DIALOGUE'.

LUCAS

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMITED  
NENAD  
MED  
DEFENCE DEPT  
PUSD  
NEWS DEPT  
UND  
NAD  
WED  
SED  
ECD(E)  
FINANCE DEPT  
PROTOCOL DEPT  
PS

PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR WRIGHT  
MR MACINNES  
MR ADAMS  
MR EGERTON  
MR JENKINS

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

COPIES TO:  
MOD DS11  
MR GOODALL )CABINET  
SIR R ARMSTRONG)OFFICE  
SIR P MOORE  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

2  
CONFIDENTIAL