

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16

PS
PS/MR WCE
PS/FUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR SPERTON
SIR J BULLARD
ED/NEWS D
ED/ED
ED/USD

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10

ED/.....
ED/CONSULAR DEPT
FUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK



IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY



CR 363
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 031900Z BUDAPEST
FM BEIRUT 031710Z FEB 84
TO IMMEDIATE BUDAPPUT
TELECRANES 9.734 2 OF 3 FEBRUARY 1984
INFO IMMEDIATE F C O, WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, MODUK
PRIORITY DAMASCUS
INFO SAVING BRITFORLEB

MY TELNO 1: LEBANON

FOLLOWING FOR PS/PRIME MINISTER

1. BEIRUT HAS HAD A QUIETER DAY. THE CEASEFIRE AGREED THIS MORNING IS GENERALLY HOLDING. IT IS BROKEN BY OCCASIONAL SHELLING AND SHIPING. THE LAF HAVE REGAINED THE POSITIONS THEY LOST TO AMAL.
2. THE SHELLING BY THE PSP AND OTHERS FROM THE HILLS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IN SUPPORT OF AMAL AND ITS ALLIES FIGHTING AGAINST THE LEBANESE ARMY ON THE EDGE OF THE 'NO-OO' AREA OF THE CITY.
3. TWO BATTALIONS OF THE FIFTH BRIGADE - DEPLOYED EARLIER

3. TWO BATTALIONS OF THE FIFTH BRIGADE - DEPLOYED EARLIER THIS WEEK WELL TO THE NORTH OF BEIRUT - HAVE BEEN MOVED DOWN TO THE EASTERN PART OF THE CITY, WHERE THEY REMAIN IN RESERVE.

4. DUE TO THE SECURITY SITUATION AND POOR TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE SO FAR TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO CARRY OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN YOUR TELNO 218 TO WASHINGTON. WE SHALL KEEP TRYING.

5. THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO BEEN UNABLE TO SEE SALEM. HE HAS BEEN MAROONED IN HIS RESIDENCE AT YARZE AND NOT ABLE TO BRIEF US AS FORECAST IN WASHINGTON TELNO 380. HOWEVER, LAST NIGHT HE SPENT SOME HOURS IN THE SAME AIR RAID SHELTER AS PRESIDENT GEMAYEL AND HADDAD.

6. HIS DCM TOLD COUNSELLOR THAT BARTHOLOMEW BELIEVES THAT HE HAS PERSUADED GEMAYEL THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR THE LEBANESE ARMY TO LAUNCH ANY OFFENSIVE AT THIS MOMENT. UNLESS THERE IS A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN THE STATE OF SECURITY, THE AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN RIDE THE LEBANESE OFF LAUNCHING ANY MILITARY OPERATION FOR THE NEXT TWO TO THREE DAYS AT LEAST. HOWEVER, PUGH HINTED THAT AMERICAN WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE COUNSELLING THE LEBANESE AGAINST SUCH ACTION DEPENDED ON THERE STILL REMAINING A CHANCE OF BREAKING THE POLITICAL LOG JAM BY NEGOTIATION. BARTHOLOMEW HAD DISCUSSED WITH GEMAYEL SOME IDEAS (PUGH DID NOT SPECIFY) FOR RESOLVING THE PROMOTIONS ISSUE WHICH MIGHT BE PUT TO JUMBLATT IN DAMASCUS. BARTHOLOMEW HAS REPORTED THESE TO WASHINGTON. NO ONE SEEMED VERY HOPEFUL THAT, IF JUMBLATT COULD BE SATISFIED ON THE QUESTION OF PROMOTIONS, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO LET THE SECURITY PLAN GO AHEAD. BUT IF NOTHING ELSE, THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD SERVE TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE OPEN.

MIERS

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