

CONFIDENTIAL

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PP PARIS
GRS 215
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FM FCO 081500Z FEB 84
TO PRIORITY PARIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 116 OF 8 FEBRUARY
INFO ROUTINE ROME, BEIRUT
LEBANON

A.J.C. 9/2

f-a.

1. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON THE PUS TODAY. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING THE DESIRABILITY OF SECURING SOME EARLY UN INVOLVEMENT (RECORDED IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM TO UKMIS NEW YORK), HE SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE GRATEFUL FOR MY MESSAGES ABOUT OUR DECISION TO REDEPLOY THE BRITISH CONTINGENT TO THE MNF (FCO TELNO 111), BUT WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF WHEN THE DEPLOYMENT WAS TO TAKE PLACE. THE PUS SAID THAT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO KEEP IN THE CLOSEST TOUCH WITH OUR MNF PARTNERS AND THAT THE FIRST THING WE HAD DONE FOLLOWING THE DECISION BY MINISTERS TO REDEPLOY WAS TO SEND MESSAGES TO THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO HAVE GIVEN ANY MORE PRECISE NOFIFICATION IN A SITUATION IN WHICH PLANNING WAS EVOLVING THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND PRECISE AMERICAN INTENTIONS WERE UNCLEAR. THE PUS SAID THAT EACH GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE ITS OWN DECISIONS, AS INDEED THE FRENCH HAD DONE IN RETURNING PART OF THEIR MNF CONTINGENT TO UNIFIL, AND THE ITALIANS IN REDUCING THE SIZE OF THEIR CONTINGENT. HE ADDED THAT THE OPTION OF REDUCING OUR CONTINGENT HAD NOT BEEN OPEN TO US: WE EITHER HAD TO KEEP IT IN PLACE OR REDEPLOY IT OFFSHORE.

HOWE

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MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

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FINANCE DEPT
PROTOCOL DEPT
PS

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PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
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