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DESKBY 080300Z FCO, MODUK

FM BEIRUT 080140Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 73 OF 8 FEBRUARY 1984

AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, PARIS, ROME, CBFC

YOUR TELNO 52: WITHDRAWAL OF BRITFORLEB

1. SHORTLY BEFORE RECEIVING YOUR TUR I WAS INFORMED BY COLONEL BRITFORLEB THAT BRITFORLEB HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE HADATH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND MOVE TO JOUNIEH FOR EVACUATION IN THE COURSE OF TODAY. THEY PLAN TO LEAVE AT ABOUT 0700Z, AFTER A FAREWELL CALL BY COMMANDER BRITFORLEB ON GENERAL TANHOUS AT 0600Z.

2. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ISSUE THE PRESS STATEMENT IN PARA 3 OF YOUR TUR AT THE TIME OF DEPARTURE, WHICH WILL ALSO BE ISSUED BY MOD SIMULTANEOUSLY IN LONDON. APPARENTLY BRITFORLEB'S DEPARTURE WAS ON UK NEWS AT 072330Z.

3. I PROPOSE TO CARRY OUT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS BY ARRANGING FOR THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED FROM ME TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER (BY BRITFORLEB VIA THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE: THE BEST QUICK MEANS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO ME) AT ABOUT 0600Z.

QUOTE

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR MESSAGE OF 7 FEB THE BRITISH MNF CONTINGENT IS BEING REDEPLOYED FROM HADATH TO A SHIP BORNE LOCATION AS FROM 8 FEB UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. UNQUOTE. I SHALL MAKE THE SUPPLEMENTARY POINTS IN YOUR TUR ORRALY AS OPPORTUNITY ARISES.

4. THIS WOULD BE IN REPLY TO A MESSAGE FROM SALEM TO ME, RECEIVED BY THE SAME MEANS LATE LAST NIGHT, AS FOLLOWS. QUOTE. IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION, I HAVE ASKED THE US TO REFOCUS THE EFFORT OF ITS MNF CONTINGENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH COPING WITH THE CURRENT THREAT FROM FOREIGN INTERVENTION, SPECIFICALLY ARTILLERY FIRE FROM SYRIAN CONTROLLED ZONES, AND INFILTRATION OF FOREIGN TERRORISTS INTO BEIRUT. I ALSO REQUEST THAT THE OTHER MNF GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER ADJUSTING THEIR MNF PRESENCE TO CONFORM TO THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION AND THE EXISTING THREATS THAT WE FACE. UNQUOTE.

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5. I EXPECT THE MOVE BY BRITFORLEB TO GO WITHOUT MAJOR SNAGS. ONE POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY IS THE MOVE TO JOUNIEH BY BRITFORLEB'S 3 MAN SIGNAL TEAM, DETACHED TO THIS EMBASSY. WE SHALL SHEPERD THIS THROUGH THE GREEN LINE AS BEST WE CAN.

6. IT REMAINS IMPORTANT FOR THE SAFETY OF THIS MISSION, AND TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY EVACUATION OPERATION OF BRITISH SUBJECTS THAT WE MAY HAVE TO MOUNT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THAT WE SHOULD NOT (NOT) STRESS THAT BRITFORLEB'S MOVE IS IN CONFORMIITY WITH US ACTIONS. IT MAY BE STRONGLY TO OUR DISADVANTAGE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY POSSIBLE SHELLING BY THE SIXTH FLEET, THE FUTURE SCOPE INTENTION AND TARGETTING OF WHICH ARE STILL UNCLEAR AND WILL NOT BE WITHIN OUR CONTROL.

MIERS

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

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

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

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COPIES TO:

MOD DS11
MR GOODALL)CABINET
SIR R ARMSTRONG)OFFICE

SIR P MOORE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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1'S QUESTION TIME

LEBANON

EVACUATION

Evacuation

Line to Take

The BBC World Service has announced arrangements for the evacuation of the British Community and will continue to keep the Community informed of the arrangements being made. One vessel will pick up evacuees from East Beirut today. A second vessel will pick up evacuees from West Beirut and elsewhere as soon as possible.

Advice to Community

The British Embassy has since last September been advising those without pressing reasons to leave. The Embassy have not recommended full evacuation, but are making arrangements to assist those who wish to leave.

Numbers Involved

There are estimated to be about 2600 UK nationals in Lebanon of which perhaps 500 may wish to leave.

Cost of Evacuation

In accordance with normal practice, all those leaving are being asked to sign Undertakings to repay. For those leaving by sea the charge will be £30. Those using helicopters will be asked to pay surcharge.

*Charge - normal practice
1- Feb 1979 - Tehran
But evoked under Lebanon gov't
charge £68.*



LEBANON

EVACUATION

Background

The BBC World Service have announced that those wishing to be evacuated should contact the Embassy. The BBC will broadcast further details of the arrangements. The vessel Sol Ghiorgios will be off Jounieh Bay, 10 miles north of Beirut today (9 February) to pick up residents of East Beirut. Arrangements are being put in hand for the early evacuation, probably on 10 February, by ship or helicopter, of residents in West Beirut and elsewhere.

Arrangements for the evacuation have been hampered by severe difficulties of communication, notably the cutting off of telephone lines to the British Embassy, acute dangers of movement between Christian East Beirut and Muslem controlled West Beirut and by severe gales off the Lebanese coast.

STATEMENT BROADCAST BY BBC WORLD SERVICE FROM 1100Z

'Members of the British Community who wish to apply for evacuation from Lebanon to Cyprus under arrangements being made by the British Embassy should give their names and passport details to the Embassy or to the Consular Unit in the British Council Offices in West Beirut. The Embassy telex number is 20465 (the telephones are currently not working). The telephone numbers of the British Council are 803978 and 803980, and the telex number 42353.

The British Embassy, through the BBC World Service, will keep the British Community in Lebanon informed of the various means whereby the evacuation will be effected. For those in East Beirut, the vessel Sol Ghiorgios will be off Jounieh today, 9 February. There will be some accommodation available on board. Those wishing to travel should apply to British Consular Officers at Jounieh.'

have been made by ship or helicopter
Arrangements for subsequent evacuations of those in West Beirut and elsewhere will be announced shortly.
Precise details will be given as soon as more is known of the numbers wishing to leave.

Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978, which defined the mandate as "confirming withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security, and assisting Government of Lebanon in ensuring return of its effective authority in the area".

Area means area of Southern Lebanon occupied by Israelis.