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DESKBY 08200Z FCO AND WASHINGTON

FM BEIRUT 081915Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 82 OF 3 FEBRUARY.

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, ROME, DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, AMMAN,
JEDDA, CAIRO, MOSCOW, UKHIS NEW YORK.

YOUR TELNO 259 TO WASHINGTON: LEBANON.

1. AS SEEN FROM HERE IT IS EVEN WORSE THEN TUR. THE COUNTRY IS NOW PARTITIONED. THERE IS A DANGER, WITH THE ASSEMBLY UNABLE TO MEET, THE GOVERNMENT A MERE CARETAKER, AND THE PRESIDENT UNDER PRESSURE TO RESIGN, OF THERE BEING NO RECOGNISED GOVERNMENT IN EITHER PART. AND BOTH SIDES OF THE CAPITAL ARE ARMED TO THE TEETH. IT SEEMS SURPRISING THAT THE AMERICANS CAN CONTEMPLATE SHELLING THE HILLS IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THEIR FLEET WHEN THE LIKELY RESULT IS MORE SHELLING OF EAST BEIRUT AND THE MARINES FROM THE HILLS FOLLOWED BY SHELLING OF WEST BEIRUT FROM THE EAST. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAS RECOMMENDED A MESSAGE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO PRESIDENT REAGAN TO STOP SHELLING AS HE FEARS THE ITALIAN CONTINGENT (NOT YET REDEPLOYED) MAY BE HIT AS SELF CONTROL BREAKS DOWN.

3. BERRI AND UMBLATT APPEAR AT PRESENT TO BE DISCOURAGING ATTACKS ON REMAINING MNF DETACHMENTS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND FOREIGNERS. U.S. SHELLING WILL NOT HELP THEM TO URGE RESTRAINT ON THEIR ADHERENTS.

MERS

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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/PUS

SIR J BULLARD

SIR J LEAHY

SIR W HARDING

MR WRIGHT

MR CARTLEDGE

MR MACINNES

MR ADAMS

MR JENKINS

MR EGERTON

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MR GOODALL)CABINET
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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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