

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

17 February, 1984.

Lebanon

I told you in my letter of 16 February that the Prime Minister doubted whether it was now worth while sending a message to President Reagan about the 17 May Agreement, but that she would reflect again before the end of the week.

The Prime Minister has now decided that in the light of events on the ground such a message would be redundant.

She wishes to send a short message to Vice President Bush about this decision. I enclose the text, and would be grateful if you would arrange for it to be delivered by HM Embassy, Washington.

A. J. COLES

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

B.R.

28 Please retype.

SECRET

A.J.C. 17/12

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH

Dear George,

I hope you enjoyed the rest of your travels. We shall always remember with the greatest pleasure the Chequers weekend.

Following our talks I gave careful thought to the possibility of sending a message to the President about the Lebanon. But it was clear that <sup>the situation</sup> ~~events~~ on the ground <sup>was changing fast</sup> ~~were moving fast~~ and that the main subject I might have dealt with - the status of the 17 May Agreement - was ~~in the forefront of everyone's mind~~. I reached the ~~conclusion that this was a case where back-seat driving would not be helpful and so decided not to write now.~~

But we must stay in close touch about the Middle East and all the other problems on our minds. It was so valuable to talk to you at length and in a relaxed atmosphere.

My best wishes to you both.

Yours ever,

Margaret

already being widely and openly discussed and events seemed to be virtually dictating the decision. So I decided not to write formally to the President