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DESKBY 100930Z

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 100010Z JAN 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 36 OF 9 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, BEIRUT, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, MODUK, CAIRO
PRIORITY PARIS, ROME, MOSCOW, THE HAGUE, JEDDA

MY TELNO 27: LEBANON

1. IN THE COURSE OF HIS MEETING WITH MR WHITNEY THIS MORNING UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL URQUHART GAVE A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON ON 6 JANUARY.
2. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE LINE WITH SHULTZ THAT THERE SHOULD BE A NATURAL EVOLUTION WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MNF, THE EXPANSION OF THE UN OBSERVER TEAM IN BEIRUT AND THE REDEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL TO THE NORTH OF THE ISRAELIS. ELEMENTS IN THIS EVOLUTION WOULD BE THE LEBANESE SECURITY PLAN, THE DEBATE IN ISRAEL ON WITHDRAWAL (WHICH HE HOPED WOULD TAKE THE IDF BACK TO THE LITANI) AND THE DEBATE IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER MNF COUNTRIES ON THEIR CONTINUED PRESENCE IN LEBANON. A GOOD DEAL OF WORK ON THE RUSSIANS WOULD BE REQUIRED.
3. URQUHART SAID THAT SHULTZ HAD BEEN 'VERY LEVEL-HEADED' EXCEPT OVER THE ISRAEL/LEBANON AGREEMENT OF 17 MAY WITH WHICH HE SEEMED 'VERY STUCK', IN URQUHART'S VIEW TOTALLY UNREALISTICALLY. SHULTZ HAD SAID THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN COURTING A RUSSIAN VETO WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE THE FATE OF ANY INITIATIVE NOW (HE HAD ALSO SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE RUSSIANS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH WAS NEWS TO BOTH URQUHART AND MYSELF). IN ANSWER TO URQUHART'S QUESTION I SAID THAT IT WAS PROBABLY RIGHT THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD VETO ANY INDIVIDUAL MOVE BUT THAT THIS COULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER IF SUCH A MOVE WERE PRESENTED AS PART OF A PACKAGE.

THOMSON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMITED

NENAD

MED

DEFENCE DEPT

PUSD

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

MR WRIGHT

MR CARTLEDGE

MR MACINNES

MR ADAMS

MR EGERTON

MR JENKINS

COPIES TO:

MOD DS11

MR GOODALL)CABINET
SIR R ARMSTRONG)OFFICE

SIR P MOORE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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