

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16

PS  
PS/AR WCE  
PS/FUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR SPERTON  
SIR J BULLARD  
ED/NEVAD  
ED/NEB  
ED/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE D10

ED/CONSULAR DEPT

FUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY

SIC

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

GR 300

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BEIRUT 011200Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 54 OF 1 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON AND MODUK

INFO PRIORITY DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, ROME, PARIS, KUWAIT, UKMIS  
NEW YORK.

YOUR TELNO 193: LEBANON.

1. I SAW HADDAD AT THE MNF CO-ORDINATION MEETING YESTERDAY. THERE WAS NO (NO) DISCUSSION OF ANY OPERATION. AFTERWARDS I SPOKE TO GENERAL BARAKAT (MILITARY ADVISER TO PRESIDENT FOR MNF). HE SAID NO OPERATION WAS PLANNED, BUT THE ARMY MUST OBVIOUSLY DO ITS PLANNING. LAST NIGHT AN OFFICIAL DENIAL WAS ISSUED BY THE INFORMATION MINISTRY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SHOCKED BY THE RUMOURS OF A PLANNED OPERATION: ITS POLICY WAS TO SEEK PROGRESS BY AGREEMENT.

2. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ELBANESE ARE IN NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR VIEWS. IN THE ABSENCE OF SALEM I SPOKE THIS MORNING JR INSTRUCTED IN YOUR TUR TO MAKKAWI AT THE MFA. HE SAID THAT YESTERDAYS DENIAL HAD BEEN PUT OUT ON THE EXPRESS INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER. HE TOOK OFFICIAL NOTE OF OUR POSITION. HE SAID THAT A MOVE OF THE KIND REFERRED WOULD BE A VERY GRAVE STEP AND HE UNDERTOOK THAT WE WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT MADE ANY SUCH MOVE.

MIERS

BT