

	Classification and Caveats SECRET	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE
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ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 SECRET
4
5
6 FM FCO
7 TO IMMEDIATE
8 BRITFORLEB, MODUK

FEBRUARY 84
~~BEIRUT II WFO 00~~
WASHINGTON, DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, PARIS, ROME, CBFC,
(not to all)

A.S.C. 9/2.

We have just heard that President Reagan is making an announcement after all, though we are not sure what precisely he will be saying.

9 YOUR TELNO 70 AND MY TELNO 51 / : LEBANON/MNF
10 1. Thank you for your recommendations. Ministers have now
11 decided that the British MNF contingent should be moved at the
12 most suitable moment in the next twenty-four hours to one of
13 our ships off the Lebanese coast. After confirming that
14 Commander Britforleb is proceeding as planned, you should
15 immediately inform the Lebanese Government, preferably President
16 Gemayel himself. In so doing you should explain that they are
17 being redeployed from their particularly exposed and dangerous
18 position and stationed on board ship until the situation becomes
19 clearer. Strictly for your own information, while we shall
20 avoid committing ourselves in public to permanent withdrawal for
21 as long as we can, we are most unlikely to be able to contemplate
22 a return to the situation in which our troops have been in the
23 Lebanon.
24 2. I shall be making a statement along these lines in
25 Parliament this afternoon (Wednesday). Until then we are making

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword no
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution LEBANON MNF
Drafted by (Block capitals) BRIAN FALL		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch <i>B. Dickoff</i>		
Comcan reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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	IMMEDIATE	

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1 <<<<
 2 no formal announcement here. But if necessary the following
 3 press line will be used by No 10, in response to questions
 4 about anything President Reagan may say:
 5 The Prime Minister mentioned in her answer to questions open
 6 square brackets yesterday close square brackets that we
 7 have been having urgent consultations with our MNF partners,
 8 the Lebanese authorities, the British Ambassador in Beirut
 9 and the Commander of the British contingent. The Government's
 10 position in the light of these continuing consultations and
 11 events on the ground will be made clear in Parliament open
 12 square brackets this afternoon close square brackets.
 13
 14 ~~HOWE~~
 15 ~~NNNN~~
 16 3. If (repeat if) news of Britforleb's redeployment breaks before
 17 I make my statement in the House, No 10 will draw on the
 18 following supplementary press line:
 19 In the light of the deteriorating security situation in Beirut
 20 and the particularly exposed position of the BRITFORLEB
 21 Headquarters building, it has been decided to redeploy the
 22 British contingent of the MNF until the situation becomes
 23 clearer, to the RFA 'RELIANT', stationed off the Lebanese coast.
 24 We are of course in the closest touch with the Lebanese
 25 authorities and our MNF partners about this. There will be
 26 a statement in Parliament this afternoon.
 27 3. For Paris and Rome: messages to your host governments will
 28 follow tomorrow morning 8 February once the terms of my statement
 29 in the House are clearer.
 30
 31 HOWE
 32 NNNN
 33
 34

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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