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OO UKMIS NEW YORK

OO WASHINGTON

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FM FCO 081300Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 57 OF 8 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, BEIRUT,

TO PRIORITY DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, JEDDA, CAIRO, MOSCOW

YOUR TELNO 130 LEBANON

L WE FULLY UNDERSTAND URQUHART'S VIEW THAT THERE IS LITTLE THE UN CAN DO IN PRACTICAL TERMS AT PRESENT TO HELP MATTERS FORWARD IN LEBANON. BUT IN THE PRESENT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATION WE CANNOT AFFORD TO RULE OUT ANY CHANCES OF ANY PROGRESS HOWEVER SLIGHT. OTHER AVENUES LOOK EQUALLY DISMAL.

2 PLEASE THEREFORE SAY TO URQUHART THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES AND RESPECT HIS DESIRE TO PROTECT THE SECRETARY GENERAL. BUT IT WILL BE IMPORTANT, NOT LEAST FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES, TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT THE UN IN A GOOD LIGHT AND AS HAVING SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE, AND TO SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH BOTH CONTINUOUSLY AND VERY RECENTLY WITH THE SECRETARIAT ABOUT A POSSIBLE UN ROLE. UNIFIL HAS BEEN BY AND LARGE A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AND THERE MAY BE INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF USING UNIFIL CONTINGENTS AT LEAST AS OBSERVERS IN ONE OF THE MANY POSSIBLE SCENARIOS IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. THE UN CAN SCARCELY AFFORD TO STAND ASIDE WHEN ONE OF ITS MORE AFFLICTED MEMBER STATES IS IN SUCH ACUTE DIFFICULTIES, PRESIDENT GEMAYEL REMAINS THE CONSTITUTIONAL HEAD OF STATE AND NO EARLY ALTERNATIVE IS IN VIEW.

3 WE TOO ARE UNSIGHTED ABOUT FRENCH INTENTIONS. WE HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH THE FRENCH IN RECENT WEEKS AND PARTICULARLY IN THE LAST FEW DAYS BUT OUR INTERLOCUTORS HAVE BEEN EVASIVE. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS AT LEAST PARTLY BECAUSE THEIR MINISTERS HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER INTERESTS AND CHEYSSON FOR EXAMPLE HAS BEEN A GOOD DEAL AWAY FROM PARIS.

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WHEN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON THE PUS THIS MORNING HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED THAT THE MNF CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD KEEP UP THE IMPRESSION OF SANG FROID. THEY WERE THEREFORE LOOKING FOR A POSITIVE INPUT AND BELIEVED THAT A UN ROLE IN PLACE OF THE MNF COULD HELP. HE DID NOT ELABORATE BUT COMMENTED THAT THEIR THINKING HAD NOT EVOLVED VERY FAR.

HOWE

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)  
LIMITED  
NENAD  
MED  
DEFENCE DEPT  
PUSD  
NEWS DEPT  
UND  
NAD  
WED  
SED  
ECD(E)  
FINANCE DEPT  
PROTOCOL DEPT  
PS

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

COPIES TO:  
MOD DS11  
MR GOODALL )CABINET  
SIR R ARMSTRONG)OFFICE  
SIR P MOORE  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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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