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FM UKMIS NEW YORK 081749Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TEL NO 132 OF 8 FEBRUARY 1984

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON PARIS ROME BEIRUT

INFO PRIORITY DAMASCUS TEL AVIV AMMAN JEDDA CAIRO MOSCOW

YOUR TELNO 57: LEBANON

1. I SAW THE SECRETARY GENERAL THIS MORNING, 8 FEBRUARY. URQUHART WAS WITH HIM AND GORE-BOOTH WITH ME. ALTHOUGH THE CALL HAD BEEN ARRANGED BEFORE THE LEBANESE SITUATION BECAME CRITICAL, I RAISED THE SUBJECT STRAIGHT AWAY. I GAVE PEREZ DE CUELLAR AN ACCOUNT OF THE LATEST THINKING IN LONDON (TELECON GORE-BOOTH/LONG REFERS) AND CONFIRMED TO HIM THAT BRITFORLEB HAD BEEN SUCESSFULLY REDEPLOYED OFF-SHORE. I ASKED WHETHER THE FRANCH AMBASSADOR (WHO HAD SEEN PEREZ DE CUELLAR IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF ME) HAD HAD ANYTHING TO ADD.

Some initiative!

2. PERZ DE CUELLAR SAID THAT NANTEUIL HAD BEEN UNABLE TO TELL HIM ANYTHING. HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING INSTRUCTIONS BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED THEM IN TIME AND MIGHT HAVE TO COME BACK LATER TODAY. BEYOND THAT, PERZ DE CUELLAR SAID THAT HIS ONLY NEWS WAS THAT THERE WAS COMPLETE ANARCHY IN BEIRUT. THERE WAS NOTHING THE UN COULD DO WITHOUT A SPECIFIC AND CLEAR REQUEST FROM THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED WHETHER WE KNEW IF THE AMERICANS WERE IN TOUCH WITH THE RUSSIANS. THIS WOULD BE CRUCIAL FOR EITHER THE INJECTION OF UN OBSERVERS OR THE REDEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL. I SAID THAT I WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE PREJUDICE IN WASHINGTON AGAINST BRINGING THE RUSSIANS IN ON THE SUBJECT BUT HAD NO FIRMER INFORMATION THAN THAT. PEREZ DE CUELLAR SAID THAT HE HAD HAD THE IMPRESSION FROM HIS TALK WITH THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT ACCEPT OBSERVERS THOUGH MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THEIR NATIONALITY.

3. AS I LEFT MY MEETING WITH PEREZ DE CUELLAR I WAS IMMEDIATELY ASKED BY THE PRESS WHETHER I HAD DISCUSSED LEBANON AND IF SO WHETHER UN ACTION WAS IMMINENT. I SAID THAT I HAD EXPLAINED THE BRITISH POSITION TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND HAD TOUCHED ON POSSIBLE WAYS FORWARD BUT THAT THESE WERE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY IN THE PRESENT COMPLEX SITUATION.

4. YOUR TUR ARRIVED AFTER I HAD SEEN PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND URQUHART. NEVERTHELESS MY CALL CAN CERTAINLY BE DESCRIBED AS FORMING PART OF OUR CONTINUOUS AND RECENT CONTACTS WITH THE SECRETARIAT ABOUT A POSSIBLE UN ROLE. WE SHALL REMAIN IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH URQUHART.
MARGESTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMITED

NENAD

MED

DEFENCE DEPT

FUSD

NEWS DEPT

UND

NAD

WED

SED

ECD(E)

FINANCE DEPT

PROTOCOL DEPT

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

PS/FUS

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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MR GOODALL)CABINET
SIR R ARMSTRONG)OFFICESIR P MOORE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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