

ER
PRIME MINISTER

Beirut

No-one has been evacuated today owing to bad weather.

382 people registered with the Embassy for possible evacuation from West Beirut tomorrow. These include 208 UK citizens, 69 Cypriots, 11 Australians, 50 Germans, 20 Danes and 24 Canadians.

A similar process of registration has been going on in East Beirut but we do not yet have details.

According to the tapes, Beirut has been somewhat quieter this afternoon.

A SITREP will be available early tomorrow morning - before our 9 o'clock meeting on the Lebanon.

John Coles

9 February 1984

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OR 150

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 091500Z FEB 84

FM BEIRUT 091700Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCC

TELNO 91 OF 1 FEBRUARY.

AND IMMEDIATE TO CBFC, LIGOSIA, MOLUK, REA-RELIANT.

YOUR TELNO 50: EVACUATION.

1. AT CLOSE OF PLAY TODAY THE NUMBERS OF PERSONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EVACUATION ARE: FROM WEST BEIRUT:

BRITISH	200
CYPRIST	69
AUSTRALIAN	11
W/GERMANS	50
DANES	20
CANADIANS	24

2. NO NUMBERS AVAILABLE FOR EAST BEIRUT. CONSULAR OFFICER WILL OPEN RECEPTION CENTRE TOMORROW MORNING.

NIERE

BT

NNNN

The following message was broadcast on BBC World Service at 2225hours on 9 February. It was repeated in a slightly shorter version at 0315hours on 10 February.

The FCO has asked us to broadcast the following message to British subjects in Beirut. The evacuation of the BPH from Beirut begins at 1000 hours local time on Friday 10 February. An evacuation from West Beirut to Cyprus of British passport holders who are not dual nationals (and their spouses and dependent children under the age of 18 years) will take place. People wishing to travel should come to the British Embassy in Beirut from 0800 local time onwards. (But not later than 1600 local time). They should bring their passports and not more than one suitcase per person weighing 20 kilos. No pets or weapons will be permitted. (Travellers will be required to sign an undertaking to repay the cost of the journey. Onward travel will be the responsibility of individual travellers). The British Government cannot undertake to provide transport at a later date for British Subjects in West Beirut. Members of the British community who wish to be evacuated to Cyprus from East Beirut should assemble with their travel documents at the Maroun Shahine Building at 9am Friday 10 February 1984.

There was a previous broadcast message in a more abbreviated form at 2115 hours on 9 February. No more broadcast messages are planned but the arrangements are continuing to be mentioned in World Service news bulletins.

C

UNDERTAKING TO REPAY

1. The cost of the emergency evacuation of British nationals from crisis situations overseas is funded by HMG. But it has long been standard practice to obtain from those people evacuated in this way a signed undertaking to repay a contribution towards the total cost of the evacuation arrangements. The amount that the evacuees are charged does not exceed the commercial cost of their journey by the same route and method. In the case of the journey from the Lebanon to Cyprus the charge has been calculated at £30 a person.
2. It has been both Conservative and Labour Government policy to obtain the signed undertakings to repay for example at the time of the evacuation of Tehran in 1979 and of the Lebanon in 1982.
3. There is no question of demanding cash from anyone at the time of the evacuation. People are simply required to sign a form of undertaking to repay. Those nationals who wish to leave the Lebanon will naturally have to produce proof of identification and nationality to our consular officials, and we would normally expect them to sign the under-taking to repay at the same time. In certain circumstances, for example if the evacuation is rushed or the situation is dangerous, signatures need not be obtained until after the evacuee has embarked.
4. British nationals were warned in September 1983 that unless they had essential duties in the Lebanon they would be well advised to leave the country then by normal means.

(See para 3.1.1)

(FORM K29)
(revised 1980)

**GROUP TRAVEL
UNDERTAKING TO REPAY**
To be filled in before departure

This form must be completed in full before embarkation by each head of family, or person travelling separately, and returned to the issuing office or officer before embarkation will be permitted.

PART A

1 Surname (Block letters) Fornames
..... Sex Date of Birth
Place of Birth Nationality/citizenship

2 Accompanied by:

Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Relationship

3 Address in the UK and/or future address to which correspondence can be sent

4 Last address in country from which departing

5 Name and address of next of kin

6 Name and address of employer

PART I

I, (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss and full name in block letters)
 holder of : passport/identity document
 No. issued at on
 hereby undertake to repay on demand to the *Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Government of
 all such sums as are paid on my behalf for the purpose of, or in connexion with, the
 evacuation from to of myself and the members of my
 family accompanying me, including costs incurred in respect of transport, maintenance, medical attention and any
 other items.

*Furthermore, unless I have repaid the full amount within nine months of the date of the letter notifying me of the
 amount of such costs, I undertake to pay on demand to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office an additional
 amount equivalent to seven and one half per cent (7½%) of the amount then outstanding. (This is to be regarded as
 being in lieu of interest upon my debt.)

I clearly understand:

1. that I am accepting evacuation of my own free will;
2. that the journey is at my own risk and that transport used may cost more than in normal circumstances and
 (except in the case of air transport) may not comply with normal safety and sanitary regulations;
3. that in the case of civil air travel Her Majesty's Government act only as an agent and are not a contracting

4. that passport facilities will not normally be available to me until my debt has been paid in full.

Signed

Date

Place

British Embassy/Consulate at

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss
 with wife and children has signed an Undertaking to repay all costs of the journey
 from to including any incidental expenses en route.

Date

Embassy/Consular stamp
 and initial of Consular
 Officer.

*Delete as necessary if applicant is other than a UK national

SITUATION REPORT

LEBANON EVACUATION: FINAL SITREP 1700 HRS 12 FEBRUARY 1984

1. There have been no general reports from Beirut since the last SITREP at 0630 hrs this morning.
2. Nicosia, with the assistance of the Sovereign Base Area at Akrotiri, continue to provide any necessary assistance to the evacuees. So far, only 9 British nationals have needed to be repatriated to the UK from Cyprus at public expense against undertakings to repay. Some more may require similar assistance, but most have been able to make their own arrangements.
3. Nicosia have reported that a further 35 British nationals (making a total of 52) have been disembarked in Cyprus today from United States vessels. The Americans have no news of any further British evacuees on board their ships.
4. The evacuation can now be regarded as successfully concluded. A total of 518 persons were evacuated under British arrangements. These included 190 British nationals, 126 Commonwealth citizens, 3 Irish nationals, and 199 others. (These figures are subject to a final check by Nicosia of the details of those processed through the SBA at Akrotiri.)
5. There have been only 3 enquiries from members of the public received in the Consular Emergency Unit in the last 24 hours.
6. The Consular Emergency Unit is now closing down. Further enquiries will be dealt with by Consular Department or the Resident Clerks as necessary. Consular Department will submit a round-up report on 13 February.


A G McMahon
Consular Emergency Unit

12 February 1984

Distribution:

PS/No 10 ✓
PS/PUS, W15
Sir J Bullard, W33
Chief Clerk, 3M 013
Sir J Leahy, W35
Mr Wright, E122
Mr Egerton, E205
Mr Cartledge, E303
Mr Long, NENAD, W97
Mr Nixon, NENAD, W97
Mr Chaplin, NENAD, W76A
Head of Defence Dept, E307
Head of POD, 3M 010
Mr Beveridge, Finance Dept, CH502
Head of News Dept

Private Secretaries:

B J P Fall, W52
S G Eldon, K183
S Lamport, W48
H B Warren-Gash, W57
M A Power, L927
R Kinchen, MVO, WH202
Resident Clerk

*Refused to Cheques
on 12/2 at 0855hrs*

SITUATION REPORT

LEBANON EVACUATION: SITREP 0630 HOURS, 12 FEBRUARY 1984

1. There have been no general reports from either Beirut or Nicosia since the last Sitrep at 1730 hours, 11 February.

East Beirut

2. The British Consular Officer, Mr Wilson, is still at Jounieh to offer advice to any nationals remaining: some passenger ships are now operating from Jounieh to Cyprus.

Beirut

3. A telex reply Beirut have asked us to pass to the Indian Embassy there indicates they asked - too late in the day - whether we could evacuate Indian nationals.

Cyprus

4. The US vessel carrying nine British nationals is due at Larnaca shortly.

General

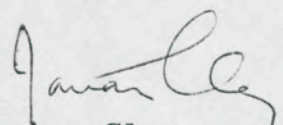
5. We have now been able to contact a further two Embassies (France and Switzerland) whose nationals we have evacuated.

6. The Immigration Authorities at Heathrow have agreed to admit 10 foreign nationals whose spouses and children are British citizens.

7. The figures of evacuees we have from Beirut, Jounieh and Nicosia are not entirely consistent; we are endeavouring to clarify them.

8. There have been no telephone calls from members of the public since early evening, 11 February.

12 February 1984


Marian Clay
Consular Emergency Unit

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Resident Clerk

SITUATION REPORT

LEBANON EVACUATION: SITREP 17.30 11 FEBRUARY 1984

Beirut

1. The Embassy, Beirut have reported (08.45Z) that the flat where two COD Communicators were sleeping was hit by a Rocket. The two officers were shaken but not hurt. Small arms fire (10.55Z) was fired into a group of evacuees being processed by Americans in Beirut; a 10 year old girl in the group, believed to be a Turkish national, was slightly hurt. Beirut have also reported (12.05Z) that American evacuation was proceeding smoothly and that further British helicopters were not required. At 13.00Z Embassy reported quiet morning, more cars and shops open.

Cyprus

2. BHC Nicosia telephoned (10.30Z) to report everything was going smoothly in Cyprus. Most British nationals had made their own arrangements for accommodation in, and onward journeys from, Cyprus. British evacuees have commented that they were pleased with evacuation arrangements and the way that everything went smoothly. Nicosia has repatriated 5 people today (11 February) at public expense by air from Cyprus to UK. A further 4 British nationals (mother and 3 young children) will be repatriated on 12 February. Repatriation to the UK is against a signed undertaking to repay costs in accordance with standard practice

General

3. We have lists giving names, nationality and passport numbers of people evacuated from West Beirut and Jounieh, also of 17 British nationals who arrived on an American vessel at Larnaca during afternoon of 11 February. The Emergency Unit has telephoned all those (13 people) who had enquired earlier about next of kin, where the next of kin concerned appear on our lists. In most cases the next of kin had already telephoned families in UK from Cyprus. The Emergency Unit has also confirmed names to 17 Embassies and High Commissions in London - Afghan, Australian, Austrian, Belgian, Canadian, Danish, West German, Ghana, Greek, Italian, Jordanian, Dutch, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, South African, Syrian, United States of America - whose nationals are on

/ our

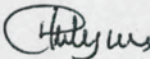
our lists; we have so far been unable to reach a duty officer at 10 further Embassies, whose nationals we have evacuated. We are continuing with efforts to make contact.

4. BHC Nicosia say another US vessel is due to reach Larnaca at 07.00 on 12 February. There are 9 British nationals on board. Someone from Nicosia will meet and inform us of names.

5. The Greek Ambassador telephoned (15.50) to ask whether a small number of Greek Embassy families could be included with the British evacuation. I explained that this had been completed, but that the Americans had continued with their evacuation today and we had also heard that commercial vessels were leaving Jounieh. The Ambassador confirmed that the Greeks were in touch with our and the US Embassy in Beirut, also with Washington.

6. The Emergency Unit has answered telephone calls from 25 members of the public about next of kin.

11 February, 1984


Miss D M Symes
Consular Emergency Unit

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R Kinchen, MVO, WH202
Resident Clerk.

SITUATION REPORT

LEBANON EVACUATION : SITREP 0700 11 FEBRUARY 1984

West Beirut

1. The Ambassador reported at 1430Z 10 February that the evacuation had been completed from West Beirut, and that the Royal Navy had lifted out 458 in total. The US evacuation is now in full swing and no problems have been reported.

East Beirut

2. It was not possible for the Sol Ghiorgios to dock at Jounieh but all those who applied for evacuation in Jounieh were lifted off by helicopter to the RFA Reliant.

General

3. The High Commission in Nicosia have reported that the total of 518 evacuees (both from West Beirut and Jounieh) had arrived safely at Akrotiri. The High Commission and their Consular team at the SBAs are arranging to process the onward journeys of these evacuees, the first of whom are expected to arrive at Heathrow today. They will also make any necessary arrangements for 20-25 British nationals said to be onboard a US vessel due at Lanaka this morning.

4. Full details of a breakdown by nationality of all 518 evacuees are not yet available but the High Commission in Nicosia reports that in the first 224 evacuees there were British, Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot, Germans, Greeks, Canadians, Australians, Italians, Dutch, Danish, French, Austrians, Swedes and one Indian.

5. The High Commission hope to be able to provide more details of the evacuees in the course of today, and the Embassy in Beirut have also promised a further breakdown.

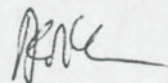
6. The Americans, whose evacuation operation will continue today, have agreed to take on any British stragglers, but in case of real need British helicopter capacity from the

/RFA....

RFA Reliant could be made available if HMA Beirut reports that this would really be desirable.

7. The vessel Sol Ghiorgios is due to return to Cyprus today, and with the standby vessel, Sol Phyrne, is being stood down.

8. In the last 24 hours, the Consular Emergency Unit has received only about twenty enquiries from members of the public.



A G McMahon
Consular Emergency Unit

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LEBANON EVACUATION : SITREP 0700 10 FEBRUARY 1984

ADL 19/2
h-a.

WEST BEIRUT

1. The Ambassador has reported (0630GMT) that the local security situation is calm. The weather in Beirut is clear with light winds. The evacuation operation has been cleared with militias at both senior and local levels.

A 2. 208 British nationals plus 104 Commonwealth nationals have
B applied so far to be included in the West Beirut evacuation plan, and have been advised via BBC World Service broadcasts (see copy attached) to assemble at the British Embassy between 0600Z GMT - 1400GMT (local time in Beirut is 2 hours ahead of GMT). The evacuees will be picked up by helicopters (possibly Chinook helicopters from Akrotiri) up to six in all from a landing zone in West Beirut, and transported to RFA Reliant and from there possibly to the San Ghiorgos but more likely direct to Akrotiri.

3. The Americans are mounting a similar operation from 1000GMT in the same area of West Beirut with up to 10 helicopters. Both Embassies have agreed a physical division of operations with British helicopters having exclusive use of the western most landing zones and the Americans those on the east. Our Ambassador has included 50 West Germans and 20 Danes in his current plans. The Belgians are also asking our Embassy for help in evacuating 30 nationals. The Ambassador has confirmed that his plans can cope with non-British evacuees.

EAST BEIRUT

A 4. A consular Office was set up in Jounieh at 0700 GMT 10 February in the Maroun Chahine building (no telephone or telex number yet) near the port. It is headed by Mr Lawrence Wilson from our Embassy in Beirut. British nationals have been advised via the BBC World Service (see message attached) to assemble in Jounieh.

5. Mr Wilson is staying at the Montemar Hotel Jounieh (telex no 45110 and telephone no 91280). The telex works but telephone lines from London to Beirut and Jounieh appear to be blocked. Mr Wilson telephoned the Emergency Unit (0500 GMT); his approximate estimate of the number of British nationals to be evacuated is 300; this may be high. He will not have a more precise figure until assembly time. He said that outwardly Jounieh appeared relatively calm at that time.

/6.

6. The weather conditions are still preventing the San Ghiorgos from docking at Jounieh but the aim is to dock her at 1000 GMT if conditions permit. If not Sea King helicopters will be available to ferry people from the sports stadium Jounieh to the San Ghiorgos; the stadium is about a mile from the port.

GENERAL

7. Six officers from our High Commission at Nicosia are at present on RFA Reliant and will assist the Beirut Embassy staff as necessary in handling the evacuation. They will return to Cyprus with the evacuees. A second team from the High Commission Nicosia will be ready to receive the evacuees on arrival in Cyprus, and will assist them with finding temporary accommodation and with their onward arrangements. Staff of the Sovereign Base Areas are also ready to offer essential help and accommodation as necessary. From Cyprus normal repatriation arrangements will apply: People without immediate financial resources will be treated under our usual repatriation procedures and Consular Department will contact referees for deposit of funds. It is likely that most onward journeys will be by commercial air services.

8. We have drawn to the attention of Beirut, Jounieh and Nicosia the fact that although signed Undertakings to Repay (UTR) are required, in certain circumstances the posts may use their discretion and delay obtaining signatures on the documents until after embarkation. The Ambassador has reported (0630 GMT) that unless the situation changes radically there will be sufficient time to obtain UTRs.

9. Some Commonwealth nationals included in our evacuation plans might not wish to return to their own countries. We are not aware, however, that this was a problem at the time of the 1982 Lebanon evacuation when 141 Commonwealth citizens were included in the British evacuation arrangements. We have submitted separately on this, recommending that all Commonwealth nationals be accepted. Consular officers have been asked to obtain written details where possible of the country to which applicants will travel after Cyprus. A copy of a UTR is attached together with some explanatory notes.

10. Only eight members of the public contacted the Emergency Unit between 12 noon 9 February and 0730 10 February to enquire about the situation.

11. We have asked Beirut and Jounieh to let us have names of evacuees as and when possible.

12. The Consular Emergency Unit within the FCO was activated at 12 noon on 9 February and will offer a 24 hour service until further notice.

D. Symes

10 February 1984

Miss D M Symes
Consular Emergency Unit

Distribution :

Private Secretaries to all Ministers

PS/PUS

Sir J Bullard

Chief Clerk

Sir J Leahy

Mr Wright

Mr Egerton

Lord N Gordon Lennox

Mr Cartledge

Mr Long, NENAD

Mr Nixon, NENAD

Mr Chaplin, NENAD

Head of Defence Dept

Head of News Dept

Head of POD