

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF) ADVANCE COPIES

X27

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PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
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SIR J LEAHY  
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MR NACINNES  
MR ADAMS  
MR JENKINS  
MR EGERTON

COPIES TO:  
MR GOODALL  
SIR R ARMSTRONG CABINET OFFICE

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RESIDENT CLERK



IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

This was discussed at today's meeting on the Lebanon. A.J.C. 19/2

*How come that when we ask Urquhart a few days ago - we are told there is no possibility.*

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 090800Z

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 090125Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 138 OF 8 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, BEIRUT,

PRIORITY DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, JEDDA, CAIRO, MOSCOW, THE HAGUE

MY TELNO 132 (NOT TO ALL): LEBANON

SUMMARY

1. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAW THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON (8 FEBRUARY) ON INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF INTRODUCING A UN FORCE INTO BEIRUT. AT HIS REQUEST, THE PRESIDENT IS SOUNDING OUT THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. I ENCOURAGED HIM STRONGLY. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE RUSSIANS AND SYRIANS MIGHT BE BECOMING MORE FLEXIBLE ABOUT SUCH A FORCE.

DETAIL

2. AS WE WERE FOREWARNED IN TELECON NIXON/HUMFREY, THE FRENCH FINALLY RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS THIS AFTERNOON AND NANTEUIL SAW THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND SHAH NAWAZ (PAKISTAN), THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

3. I SPOKE TO URQUHART SHORTLY AFTER NANTEUIL'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL. HE SAID THAT THE FRENCHMAN HAD SIMPLY MADE AN UNSTRUCTURED AND INFORMAL SOUNDING OUT OF THE POSSIBILITIES. NANTEUIL HAS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT THE FRENCH HAVE NO PRECISE VIEWS AT THE MOMENT BUT THINK THAT IT IS TIME TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL UN FORCE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY DECISION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MNF IN BEIRUT.

4. AFTER HE HAD SEEN NANTEUIL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO SEE ME. HE SAID THAT NANTEUIL HAD ASKED HIM

*UN govt  
Nov-84  
French  
ask and  
difficult answer  
is given  
not*

~~SECURITY COUNCIL TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MNF IN BEIRUT.~~

~~4. AFTER HE HAD SEEN NANTEUIL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO SEE ME. HE SAID THAT NANTEUIL HAD ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD HOLD INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY THE PERMANENT MEMBERS, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF INTRODUCING A UN FORCE INTO BEIRUT TO SUPERVISE A CEASEFIRE, ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND RESTORE NORMALCY AND PEACE. SHAH NAWAZ ASKED FOR OUR REACTION. I SAID THAT WE WERE VERY POSITIVE ABOUT SUCH AN INITIATIVE. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WOULD WELCOME AN ENHANCED UN ROLE. THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN THE SOVIET AND SYRIAN POSITIONS. HOWEVER WHAT I HAD BEEN TOLD TODAY (SEE PARA 7 BELOW) INDICATED THAT THERE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE SOME MOVEMENT IN THESE POSITIONS AND I WISHED TO ENCOURAGE SHAH NAWAZ IN HIS CONSULTATIONS.~~

5. WE NOTED THE VARIOUS PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES SUCH AS WHO WOULD INVITE THE UN AND WHICH COUNTRIES WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TROOPS. SHAH NAWAZ RIGHTLY CONCLUDED THAT THE FIRST THING WAS TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THERE WAS CONSENSUS IN THE COUNCIL. IF THERE WAS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL COULD BE ASKED TO SORT OUT THE DETAILS. HE ASKED WHETHER WE THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE A UN FORCE OR OBSERVERS. I SAID WE COULD GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER THE COUNCIL'S CONSENSUS MIGHT BE ON THIS, BUT I HAD HEARD FROM URQUHART EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT THE UN OBSERVERS IN BEIRUT HAD HAD THEIR TRANSPORT STOLEN, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT IN THE PRESENT SITUATION ANY UN PRESENCE WOULD NEED TO BE PROPERLY ARMED FOR SELF-DEFENCE. THIS MIGHT SUGGEST IT SHOULD BE A FORCE.

6. SHAH NAWAZ WILL NOW BE CONTINUING HIS CONSULTATIONS AND PLANS IN PARTICULAR TO SPEAK TO THE RUSSIANS AND AMERICANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNFORTUNATELY MRS KIRKPATRICK IS IN THE ANTIPODES AND LICHENSTEIN IS AWAY IN WASHINGTON UNTILL TOMORROW AFTERNOON. THEIR POLITICAL COUNSELLOR DELIVERED A MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL THIS AFTERNOON SETTING OUT THE US POSITION IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED TO US AS THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT. IT IS VERY TOUGH, PLEDGING FURTHER SUPPORT TO THE LEBANESE ARMY AND WARNING THE SYRIANS NOT TO THINK THAT THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IS WEAKENING. ('THE SYRIANS WILL NOW BE FACED WITH AN ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION INDICATING GREATER US ACTIVE SUPPORT AND MORE SUSTAINABLE LONG TERM COMMITMENT TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT.'). IT MAKES NO MENTION OF THE UN AT ALL. ACCORDING TO CLARK YOU WILL HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE MEMORANDUM IN LONDON.

7. URQUHART HAS TALKED TO OVINNIKOV (USSR), WHO HAD GIVEN SOME INDICATION OF POSSIBLE MOVEMENT IN THE SOVIET POSITION. URQUHART ALSO HAD SOME INDICATION THAT THE SYRIANS WERE NO LONGER WHOLLY OPPOSED TO A UN PRESENCE SINCE THEY WANTED TO SEE THE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE MNF. (THE ITALIAN CHARGE, WHO HAD ALSO SPOKEN TO OVINNIKOV, TOLD ME THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A SIMILAR IMPRESSION. OVINNIKOV HAD NOT ENTIRELY EXCLUDED A UN PRESENCE IN THE CAMPS IN BEIRUT.

COMMENT

8. I HAVE DONE MY BEST TO ENCOURAGE SHAH NAWAZ AND SUPPORT THE FRENCH INITIATIVE. WE NOW AWAIT THE RESULTS OF HIS SOUNDINGS OF THE RUSSIANS AND THE AMERICANS (WHOSE INSTRUCTIONS ARE SIMPLY TO LISTEN). IF THEY BOTH CONCUR THE COUNCIL CAN MOVE ON TO CONSIDER

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THE FURTHER PROBLEMS OF AN INVITATION FROM THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT,  
ESTABLISHING A CEASEFIRE, THE TYPE OF UN FORCE, ITS MANDATE,  
COMPOSITION ETC. IT IS HARD TO BE PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC,  
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS CLEAR FROM WASHINGTON TELNO 447 THAT  
EVEN IF THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF A UN PRESENCE  
THERE IS A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE THERE IS A PEACE FOR THE UN  
TO KEEP.~~

MARGETSON

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