

FSE PASS FOLLOWING TO NO 10

2 NO 10.
1 DIO (FOR INFO)
1 FILE

FOCAB 002/12

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM BEIRUT 120630Z FEB 94

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 111 OF 12 FEBRUARY.

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, WASHINGTON

INFO PRIORITY DAMASCUS, JEDDA, TEL AVIV, PARIS, ROME,
URKIS NEW YORK.

BY TELNO 108 AND 109: LEBANON.

1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS HERE ARE:

- (A) GEMAYEL APPEARS TO HAVE PERSUADED THE SAUDIS TO RESUME ACTIVITY. HARIRI WAS AT THE PALACE YESTERDAY (11 FEB) BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR YET WHETHER A FURTHER LEBANESE/ SYRIAN/SAUDI MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL CAN BE ARRANGED.
- (B) THE DRUZE LEADERS HAMADE AND JUMBLATT'S COUSIN KHALID HAVE RETURNED TO BEIRUT ALONG WITH RASHED SOLH AND SALIM AL HESS (TWO OF THE EX-PRIME MINISTERS WHO HAVE BEEN CONFERRING IN DAMASCUS). THEY MET BERRI. IT WAS AGREED TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THE AUTHORITIES TO MAKE CONCESSIONS AND ABANDON THEIR STYLE OF GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST 15 MONTHS.
- (C) THE FRENCH HAVE MANAGED TO OPEN A PASSAGE ACROSS THE GREEN LINE FOR A SHORT PERIOD.

2. THE CHIEF DANGER, AS I SEE IT, IS THAT THE AMERICANS MAY MISS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH SYRIA BY ONCE AGAIN OFFERING TOO LITTLE TOO LATE. I HAVE NO WAY OF TELLING WHETHER THE SHELLING FROM SYRIAN CONTROLLED TERRITORY HAS TAILED OFF (IT HAS NOT STOPPED) BECAUSE OF COUNTER-BOMBARDMENT BY THE SIXTH FLEET. THE AMERICANS MAY BE MISLEADING THEMSELVES. THEIR NAVAL BOMBARDMENTS HAVE CAUSED ENORMOUS RESENTMENT AND SOURED THE ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. AN EQUALLY PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT THE SYRIANS HAVE REDUCED THE SHELLING BECAUSE THEIR ALLIES HAVE NOW WON THE BATTLE OF WEST BEIRUT. IN ANY CASE THE AMERICANS, HAVING MADE THE VITAL CONCESSIONS OVER THE 17 MAY AGREEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF THE MARINES, NOW HAVE THE CHANCE OF DOING A DEAL, PROVIDED THAT THEY DO NOT ONCE MORE OVER-ESTIMATE THEIR REAL STRENGTH AND CONSEQUENTLY MISS THE BOAT (CF SHULTZ QUOTE NOW IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME UNQUOTE. WASHINGTON TELNO 481).

3. (FOR RESIDENT CLERK) THIS ANSWER YOUR TELNO 79 TO ME ONLY.

MIERS

BT