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FM FCO 171813Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 74 OF 17 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS, BEIRUT

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

YOUR TEL NUMBERS 170-172:LEBANON:UN OPTIONS:FRENCH VIEWS

1. MINISTER AT FRENCH EMBASSY CALLED ON LEAHY ON THE AFTERNOON OF 17 FEBRUARY ON INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTER THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S QUOTE SURPRISE UNQUOTE AT PARTS OF THE UK STATEMENT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 16 FEBRUARY. GRENIER SAID THAT WHILE THE FRENCH AGREED ABOUT AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR UNIFIL THEY WERE PUZZLED BY OUR PROPOSALS FOR LIMITED STEPS IN BEIRUT WHICH DID NOT IN THEIR VIEW MEASURE UP TO THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION. THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO ENSURE THAT FRANCE AND THE UK WERE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH AND THAT THE UK SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL FOR A UN FORCE IN BEIRUT.

2. LEAHY REPLIED THAT FOR HIS PART HE WAS SURPRISED BY GRENIER'S REMARKS. WE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE FRENCH ON THIS QUESTION. YOU HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO STAY CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH NANTEUIL. FOR EXAMPLE YOU HAD CONSULTED HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT AND WERE AT NANTEUIL'S REQUEST HOLDING THE IDEA IN RESERVE. LEAHY ALSO SAID THAT YOUR STATEMENT DID NOT BEAR THE INTERPRETATION WHICH GRENIER HAD PUT ON IT. IN HANDING OVER A COPY, LEAHY POINTED TO THE PASSAGES WHICH REGISTERED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH PROPOSAL, AND WHICH EMPHASISED THAT THE LIMITED STEPS PROPOSED DID NOT CUT ACROSS IN ANY WAY THE MAJOR WORK OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON A NEW MANDATE FOR A UN FORCE AND WERE NOT (NOT) DESIGNED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE FRENCH PROPOSAL.

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LEAHY SAID OUR IDEAS WERE DESIGNED TO BE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. WE THOUGHT WE HAD TAKEN SOME TROUBLE TO STAY CLOSE TO NANTEUIL, EVEN THOUGH WE HAD HAD NO WARNING OF THE FRENCH DRAFT RESOLUTION. IT WAS IN THE SAME SPIRIT THAT LEAHY HAD PROPOSED OVER 10 DAYS AGO TO VISIT PARIS IN ORDER TO CONSULT WITH BONNEFOUS, WHOM, HE NOW LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING IN PARIS ON 20 FEBRUARY. LEAHY ASKED GRENIER TO CONVEY THIS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT WE WERE VERY CONSCIOUS THAT THE FRENCH STILL HAD FORCES ON THE GROUND IN BEIRUT AND WE WANTED TO KEEP IN STEP.

3. GRENIER ATTEMPTED RATHER LAMELY TO ARGUE THAT THE MODEST PROPOSALS IN THE UK STATEMENT MIGHT TAKE THE STEAM OUT OF SUPPORT FOR THE MORE AMBITIOUS FRENCH IDEA BUT SAID THAT HE WAS REASSURED BY LEAHY'S REMARKS AND UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THEM.

HOWE

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

PS  
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  
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