

*Prime Minster*  
To see  
*Mr. Lopez*  
*14/7*

PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR MOBERLY  
SIR J BULLARD  
HD/NENAD  
HD/MED  
HD/UND  
HD/SEC DEPT

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FM PARIS 121505Z JUL 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 719 OF 12 JULY 1982

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS,  
AMMAN AND JEDDA

YOUR TELNO 421: LEBANON

1. THIS MORNING'S PRESS RECORDS THE CONDITIONAL FRENCH AGREEMENT TO THE LEBANESE REQUEST FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE. IT REPORTS CHEYSSON AS SAYING ON 10 JULY THAT FRANCE IS "NOT YET CERTAIN" ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE PLO AND ISRAEL TO SUCH PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER AN OFFICIAL SOURCE WAS LATER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT WHILE THEIR AGREEMENT DID NOT SEEM TO BE IN DOUBT THE SAME WAS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE OF THEIR ATTITUDE TO THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS. IN THIS CONNECTION A FRENCH DIPLOMATIC SOURCE CLAIMED THAT "THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH THE UN CAN GIVE THE APPROVAL WHICH PARIS NEEDS WITHOUT NECESSARILY ACTING BY A DECISION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WHERE THE SOVIET UNION HAS THE POWER OF VETO."

2. THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ASPECTS OF FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON HAVE AGAIN ASSUMED PROMINENCE. REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM A PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST IN BUDAPEST ON 9 JULY MITTERRAND DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE MASSACRE OF GRADOUR (A FRENCH VILLAGE WHOSE

PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST IN BUDAPEST ON 9 JULY MITTERRAND DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE MASSACRE OF ORADOUR (A FRENCH VILLAGE WHOSE INHABITANTS WERE KILLED BY GERMAN TROOPS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR) AND THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF A BATTLE FOR BEIRUT. THIS HAS ALREADY DRAWN PROTESTS FROM JEWISH ASSOCIATIONS IN FRANCE, AN OPPOSITION DEPUTY, AND THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT; THE LAST OF THESE HAS BEEN SHARPLY REJECTED BY THE ELYSEE. THIS WEEK, IN ADDITION, THERE FALLS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROUND-UP AND DEPORTATION OF JEWS BY THE PARIS POLICE DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION. BOTH EVENTS ARE AROUSING BITTER DEBATE; ON THE ONE HAND THE ACCUSATION IS MADE THAT THE JEWISH PEOPLE, VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE, IS NOW PERPETRATING GENOCIDE AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS, WHILE ON THE OTHER THE ACCUSATION IS MADE THAT ANTI-SEMITISM IN FRANCE LIVES ON.

3. AMID THESE DOMESTIC CONTROVERSIES THE PRESS DISPLAYS RENEWED MISGIVINGS ABOUT FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN THE "HORNETS' NEST" OF LEBANON. A TENTATIVE CONCLUSION APPEARS TO BE THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS WELL PLACED TO PLAY A ROLE AND HAS AN OBLIGATION TO DO SO, BUT THAT IN DOING SO FRANCE IS MORE LIKELY TO INCUR BLAME THAN PRAISE.

4. ON 10 JULY DR SARTAOUTI OF THE PLO (MY TELNO 694) RENEWED HIS CALL FOR AN ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE ON THE BASIS OF COEXISTENCE AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION.

FRETWELL

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SENT/RECD AT 12

1555Z JC/HD