

Lebanon



file DA
ccfro

SUBJECT

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 July 1982

cc Master
cps

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 71442/82

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your recent message about the grave situation in Lebanon. I share your concern. The principles of international law have been violated and Security Council resolutions ignored. We and our European partners have condemned the Israeli action. Israel has, of course, often been the target of terrorist attacks and I join you in upholding all her rights as a state, including that of self-defence against such attacks. But self-defence is no justification for the invasion of a neighbouring country's territory, the destruction of people's homes and the enormous number of innocent civilian casualties which has been inflicted upon Lebanon.

These recent tragic events have once more underlined the urgent need to find a solution to the Palestinian problem as part of a comprehensive peace settlement. The Palestinian people are entitled to their right to self-determination. My Government and our European partners are working to bring all the parties to the negotiating table on the basis of the mutual acceptance of each other's rights. The Ten have said that the PLO will have to be associated with negotiations.

/We also

We also are fully aware of our responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council. We have taken every opportunity to urge Israel to comply with the relevant resolutions on the situation in Lebanon. The measures which we and our European partners have taken can have left the Israeli Government in no doubt about the strength of our feeling. We are continuing to watch the situation closely and you can be sure that we will not hesitate in our efforts to help bring about an acceptable settlement and thus reduce the terrible human suffering.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely
Raymond Shabetai

His Excellency Mwalimu Dr. Julius K. Nyerere