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TELEGRAM NUMBER 2537 OF 23 JULY

INFO UKMIS VIENNA, UKMIS GENEVA, BEIRUT, AMMAN, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS
AND PARIS

YOUR TELNO 624 TO UKMIS NEW YORK: LEBANON: CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

1. KEMP (NSC) (PLEASE PROTECT) TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE TODAY THAT AMBASSADOR DILLON VISITED SIDON THIS WEEK AND ESTIMATED THAT AT LEAST 1,000 LEBANESE HAD BEEN KILLED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON (IE EXCLUDING BEIRUT AND ITS SUBURBS). IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO FORM ANY ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES SINCE THE ISRAELIS WERE CONTROLLING VERY TIGHTLY ACCESS TO THE FORMER PALESTINIAN CAMPS WHERE THEY WERE DOING THEIR OWN QUOTE CLEARING UP UNQUOTE.

2. KEMP SAID THAT ON THE BASIS OF THIS AND OTHER REPORTS THE AMERICANS PUT TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AT BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000. HE STRESSED THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS ESTIMATE GIVEN THAT ISRAELI OFFICIAL CASUALTY FIGURES ARE MUCH LOWER.

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