

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 17

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2640 OF 2 AUGUST

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, TEL AVIV

ROUTINE BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, CAIRO, JEDDA, TUNIS AND PARIS

YOUR TELNO 1453: LEBANON: UN OBSERVERS

1. I HAD A WORD WITH EAGLEBURGER ABOUT THIS THIS EVENING. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION, THEY ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT AND ARE CERTAINLY NOT PUSHING FOR OBSERVERS TO BE SENT NOW.

2. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION, HE ENLARGED ON THIS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S MAIN CONCERN IS OVER THE TIMING. ISRAELIS TAKE THE VIEW THAT THE DESPATCH OF UN OBSERVERS WOULD ENCOURAGE THE PLO TO RESIST REACHING AGREEMENT ON A PACKAGE COVERING THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM BEIRUT. HABIB SHARES THIS VIEW. THE AMERICANS ALSO SEE SOME RISK OF MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE FUNCTION OF UN OBSERVERS.

3. NEVERTHELESS, EAGLEBURGER TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE (AND ASKED TWICE THAT WE SHOULD KEEP THIS TO OURSELVES) THAT THE UN RESOLUTION ON

3. NEVERTHELESS, EAGLEBURGER TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE (AND ASKED TWICE THAT WE SHOULD KEEP THIS TO OURSELVES) THAT THE UN RESOLUTION ON OBSERVERS HAD ONE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN EVENTUAL MULTINATIONAL FORCE FOR THE LEBANON. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RESOLUTION CALLED FOR OBSERVERS, NOT TO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE, BUT EFFECTIVELY TO MONITOR THE SITUATION IN THE LEBANON. ON THE BASIS OF THIS RESOLUTION, THEREFORE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL COULD SIMPLY BE ASKED, WHEN THE MOMENT WAS RIPE, TO SEND A TEAM OF UN OBSERVERS THERE AND NO FURTHER ACTION WOULD BE NECESSARY. THE ISRAELIS MIGHT STILL OBJECT, BUT THEY COULD NOT PREVENT IT. THE DESPATCH OF UN OBSERVERS WOULD THEN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY UN COVER TO ENABLE TO FRENCH TO PARTICIPATE.

4. IN SHORT THE U S POSITION IS THAT IT WOULD BE POSITIVELY UNHELPFUL FOR UN OBSERVERS TO BE SENT BEFORE AGREEMENT WITH THE PLO HAS BEEN REACHED; AND THAT WE ARE UNLIKELY AT ANY STAGE TO GET ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL; BUT THAT THE RESOLUTION ON OBSERVERS COULD PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT KEY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN DUE COURSE.

THOMAS

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