

SUBJECT

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Letter to Helms

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FROM FCO 260915Z AUG 82
TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT
TELEGRAM NUMBER 351 OF 26 AUGUST
INFO DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, WASHINGTON
SAVING EC POSTS

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 168A/82

YOUR TELNO 530: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

cc Master
Oys

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM
THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR GEMAYEL:-

BEGINS

A I SEND YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR ELECTION
AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON. THERE HAS BEEN GREAT
SYMPATHY IN BRITAIN FOR THE RECENT SUFFERING OF THE LEBANESE
PEOPLE. I EXTEND TO YOU ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
MY GOOD WISHES FOR SUCCESS IN YOUR TASK OF RESTORING PEACE AND
ACHIEVING THE RECONCILIATION OF ALL COMMUNITIES IN LEBANON. B
ENDS

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PS/MR HURD
SIR J BULLARD
SIR J LEAHY

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FILE SW

Lebanon
←

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 August, 1982

Thank you for your letter of 25 August enclosing a draft message to the President-Elect of Lebanon, to which the Prime Minister has now agreed. I assume you will be making arrangements for its transmission.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

↳



Prime Minister
To agree to send the attached message
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 August, 1982

Andy Coomb
John Clark
25/8

MT

Dear Tim,

Message to the President-Elect of Lebanon

You will have seen reports of the election on 23 August of Mr Bashir Gemayel as the new President of Lebanon.

Messages of congratulation have already been sent to Mr Gemayel by President Reagan and President Mitterand. The FRG President intends to follow suit shortly.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Gemayel, leader of the Christian/Phalange militia in Lebanon and widely suspected of having colluded in the Israeli invasion, will be accepted as President by Lebanon's non-Christian communities. There have already been a number of attacks by Muslim and left-wing militias against the homes of Muslim deputies who voted for Mr Gemayel. There is, however, little doubt about the legitimacy of Mr Gemayel's election. Mr David Watkins MP, one of the UK observers who attended the election, has told us that, although there was widespread intimidation on all sides, the election was carried out in accordance with the Lebanese constitution.

The last time a Lebanese President was elected, in 1976, the then Prime Minister sent a message of congratulations when President Sarkis assumed office. Mr Gemayel will formally succeed to the Presidency on 23 September. But in view of the messages already sent by other Western leaders, we recommend that the Prime Minister should send a short message now. I enclose a draft, in the form of a telegram to Beirut.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats
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Precedence/Deskby
IMMEDIATE 260600Z

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 UNCLASSIFIED
4
5 DESKBY 260600Z AUGUST 82
6 FM FCO AUGUST 82
7 TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 INFO ROUTINE DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, WASHINGTON
10 SAVING EC POSTS
11 YOUR TELNO 530: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
12 1. Please pass the following message as soon as possible from
13 the Prime Minister to Mr Gemayel:-
14 BEGINS
15 I send you my ~~sincere greetings~~ *congratulations* on the occasion of your election
16 as President of the Republic of Lebanon. There has been great
17 sympathy in Britain for the recent suffering of the Lebanese
18 people. I extend to you on behalf of Her Majesty's Government
19 my good wishes for success in your task of restoring peace and
20 achieving the reconciliation of all communities in Lebanon.
21 ENDS
22 ~~2. Signed original follows by bag.~~
23
24 PYM
25 NNNN

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept NENAD	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) E G M CHAPLIN		
Telephone number 233 4856		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	