



Top Copy on Death
sept '82. Death of Bashir
Gemayel.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 September, 1982

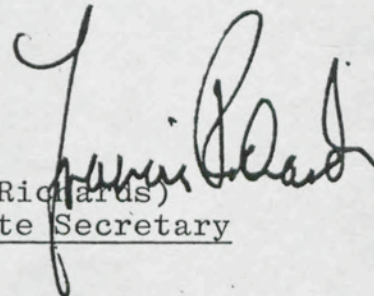
Dear John,

Death of Bashir Gemayel

You will have seen reports of the assassination of Mr Bashir Gemayel, who was due to be sworn in as Lebanon's new President on 23 September.

The Prime Minister sent a message of congratulations to
/ Mr Gemayel on his election (text enclosed). The Prime Minister
/ may therefore wish to send a short message of condolence to
/ Mrs Gemayel. I enclose a text, in the form of a telegram to
/ Beirut. I also enclose the text of a statement which the FCO
spokesman will be making at 12.30 today.

Yours ever,


(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

15 September 1932

Death of Bashir Gemayel

Thank you for your letter of 15 September. The Prime Minister agrees that the proposed message of condolence to Mrs Gemayel should be despatched.

AJC

F.N. Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

. UNCLASSIFIED

Precedence/Deskby

IMMEDIATE

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CLASS
CAVEATS
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1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 UNCLASSIFIED
4
5
6 FM FCO 151200Z SEPT 82
7 TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 ASSASSINATION OF BASHIR BEMAYEL
10 1. Please pass the following message from Prime Minister to
11 Mrs Gemayel. Begins. I was shocked to hear of the assassi-
12 nation of your husband. This crime is a cruel setback to the
13 hopes we all had that, under his leadership, Lebanon might find
14 peace again. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Ends.
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16 PYM
17 NNNN
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23
24

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept NENAD	Distribution Limited
Drafted by (Block capitals) E G M Chaplin		Nenad PCD
Telephone number 233 4856		PS PS/Mr Hurd
Authorised for despatch		Sir J Bullard Sir J Leahy
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

Letter to Helms
Ambassador

UNCLASSIFIED

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2 JUL 1982

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 GRS112
 UNCLASSIFIED
 DESKBY 261100Z
 FROM FCO 260915Z AUG 82
 TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 351 OF 26 AUGUST
 INFO DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, WASHINGTON
 SAVING EC POSTS (63)
 YOUR TELNO 530: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

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

PYM

NNNN
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 PS
 PS/MR HURD
 SIR J BULLARD
 SIR J LEAHY

DRAFT STATEMENT BY FCO SPOKESMAN, 15 SEPTEMBER

We were shocked by the assassination of Lebanon's President-elect, Mr Bashir Gemayel, and offer our condolences to his family, and the families of other victims. We deplore this resurgence of violence and in particular the murder of a man who since his election had committed himself to the search for peace between all communities in Lebanon. We hope that all Lebanese leaders will continue to work for reconciliation and national reconstruction, and that all parties will refrain from any action which might increase tension at this difficult time.