



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*I should prefer to have a specific point to make - I do not like a general message - it's not on his mind. And I have not met him.*

28 October 1982

*Dear John,*

*Prime Minister:  
Do you wish to send the message proposed?  
JA  
28/10*

Lebanon

We plan to invite the new Lebanese Foreign Minister, Mr Elie Salem, to visit Britain soon (his predecessor was originally due to come in the summer). In the meantime Mr Pym thinks it would be useful to demonstrate our interest in establishing a dialogue with President Gemayel by means of a message from the Prime Minister. I enclose a draft. If the Prime Minister agrees, this could be delivered to President Gemayel by Sir John Leahy, who will be visiting Beirut from 3-6 November.

*Yours ever  
J E Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
No 10 Downing Street

## DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT GEMAYEL

I have been following with great admiration since your election as President the progress you have made towards establishing the conditions for a reunification of the Lebanese people and the reconstruction of your country. Your speech at the General Assembly was a powerful call for the help and understanding of the international community in bringing to Lebanon the peace which your people so urgently need. As you know, the British Government share your wish to see all foreign forces withdrawn from Lebanon as soon as possible, so that she can once again enjoy her right to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. We wish to see a stable and prosperous Lebanon once again playing her part in Middle East and international affairs.

With our partners in the European Community we have shown our concern for the appalling suffering of Lebanese civilians in the recent fighting and we shall continue to provide all the help we can for relief and reconstruction. We are very conscious of the difficulties which you still have to confront, not only within Lebanon herself but also in the search for a just solution to the Palestinian problem, without which peace must remain a distant prospect for the whole region. I wanted to let you know that you and your Government have our support and good wishes in the formidable tasks which lie ahead of you.

LEBANON-



*[Handwritten signature]*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

1 November 1982

LEBANON

Thank you for your letter of 28 October proposing that the Prime Minister might send a message to President Gemayel in order to establish a dialogue with him.

The Prime Minister thinks it would be a little awkward to send Gemayel a general message. She recalls that she sent him one on his appointment. She would prefer to wait until there is a specific point to make.

A. J. COLES

Jon Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*[Handwritten signature]*