



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 December 1982

Prime Minister

It looks as if Mitterrand

was wrong.

A.T.C. 9.12

Dear John,

Multinational Force in Lebanon

You mentioned to me that at the European Council in Copenhagen President Mitterrand had said the US contingent in the Multinational Force in Lebanon was over-cautious, not being prepared to move out of the Beirut port area, and was leaving the dangerous tasks to the French and Italian contingents.

So far as we know this was only true of the first deployment of the Multinational Force in August, when the US contingent was largely confined to the port. During the second deployment, following the Beirut massacres, the US contingent has been stationed around Beirut international airport. The Italian units have been in the southern suburbs and the French in West Beirut. All three contingents, including the US, have been occasionally deployed in support of the Lebanese army in East Beirut and beyond.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

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Private Secretary

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Polizei und Landwehramt Orlitz

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