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FROM TEL AVIV 201200Z JUN 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 171 OF 20 JUNE 1983

INFO PRIORITY BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, CAIRO, JEDDA, WASHINGTON,

UKMIS NEW YORK AND MODUK.

INFO SAVING JERUSALEM.

Lead in file.
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MY TELEGRAM NO 170: ISRAEL/LEBANON

1. POLITICAL COUNSELLOR AT THE US EMBASSY CONFIRMED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THE MESSAGE WHICH MY US COLLEAGUE DELIVERED TO BEGIN LAST WEEK CONTAINED THE EXPECTED INVITATION TO PAY A WORKING VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEAR THE END OF JULY. LEWIS HAD ALSO BRIEFED BEGIN ON US DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE SYRIAN STUMBLING BLOCK TO WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES.

2. POLITICAL COUNSELLOR, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING, DESCRIBED BEGIN AS ATTENTIVE BUT SUBDUED AND OBVIOUSLY MUCH PREOCCUPIED WITH THE CONDITION OF HIS DEPUTY PGIME MINISTER EHRlich (WHO HAS SINCE DIED).

3. AS REGARDS PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL BEGIN HAD TOLD US AMBASSADOR THAT THE IDF WERE WORKING ON THE MODALITIES OF A POSSIBLE SHORTENING OF LINES IN LEBANON. HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES AND THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER FULL CONSULTATION. BEGIN HAD EXPRESSED DISTRESS AT RECENT IDF CASUALTIES WHICH HE HAD DESCRIBED AS "OUR PERMANENT PAIN". MY GERMAN COLLEAGUE ALSO HAS IT THAT BEGIN ASSURED US AMBASSADOR THAT ISRAELI CABINET HAD TAKEN NO DECISION ON REDEPLOYMENT YET EVEN IN PRINCIPLE.

4. I WOULD EXPECT CONTACTS AND DELIBERATE HINTS ABOUT POSSIBLE IDF REDEPLOYMENT TO CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT WEEKS, WITH THE FIRST ACTUAL MOVEMENT ON THE GROUND COMING ONLY AT THE END OF A FAIRLY EXTENDED PROCESS OF CONSULTATION.

MOBERLY

BT

MIDDLE EAST

STANDARD

NENAD	MAED
MED	ESSD
NAD	ERD
SAD	ESID
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