

SECRET

cc FCO

JR

cc MASTER



CO

2

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 September 1983

LEBANON: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT

There was a brief meeting at Chequers this afternoon to consider the Rules of Engagement for the Buccaneer aircraft which have been despatched to Cyprus to provide support for the British contingent in the Multi National Force. The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by the Defence Secretary, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. Pattie, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Luce and officials.

Draft Rules of Engagement, circulated by the Ministry of Defence, were considered and amended in the light of the discussion, and approved.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for a copy of the approved version to be sent to me, Brian Fall and Richard Hatfield, to both of whom I am copying this letter.

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

SECRET

NR

SUBJECT

Reference.....

CONFIDENTIAL
COVERING STREET

4

A.S.C. $\frac{12}{9}$

h.a.

Nicky

This is the agreed
set of Rules of Engagement
which you may like to
have to hand.

[No legal advisers are content]

They have been sent to
Cyprus etc.

~~I'll probably give you a
ring in the morning to
let you know how things
go.~~

~~He's hoping for a quiet night!~~

~~Theresa Loverton~~

CODE 18-78

(E.A.P. 5/78)

10 September 1983

Security Classification ----- 15 spaces ----->

SECRET

MOD Form 143

Message Instructions ----- 15 spaces ----->

3

Precedences

ACTION IMMEDIATE / INFO ROUTINE -

DTG

091815 Z Month SEP 83

FROM

MODUK

*TO

CBF CYPRUS

BRITFORLEB

AMRAD
SIGNAL
MESSAGE
FORM

*INFO

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HQ STC

AHQ CYPRUS

*USE A
SEPARATE
LINE
FOR
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Line Feed

TEXT Security Classification

SECRET

Special Handling Caveat Only

SIC(s) Only

SIC I9E

1. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. THE FOLLOWING RULES OF ENGAGEMENT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY HMG AND ARE IN FORCE NOW FOR YOUR USE IN AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS FOR BRITFORLEB.

A. ROE 1. PURPOSE. A NON FIRING SHOW OF STRENGTH OVER BEIRUT.

AMPLIFICATION. THIS SHOWS A BRITISH AIR PRESENCE. IT CAN HAVE AN ELEMENT OF RECONNAISSANCE. IT WILL EXERCISE OUR COMMAND, COMMUNICATIONS

AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH INVOLVE TASKING OF THE AIRCRAFT BY CBF CYPRUS, FORWARD AIR CONTROL BY BRITFORLEB, AND COORDINATION WITH

US FORCES. NO OFFENSIVE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY OUR AIRCRAFT ON

THIS MISSION. TO BE CARRIED OUT BY BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT, WHICH MAY BE

Special Distribution See note 3

File Reference

DRAFTER'S NAME (Block letters)

Extension

Branch

RELEASING OFFICER'S Signature

Page 1 of 3 Pages

Have you referred to a classified message? (Answer YES or No in box)

Grade/Rank

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PRECEDENCE—
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MOD FORM 140A
(continuation sheet)

IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

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ACCOMPANIED BY AIR DEFENCE PHANTOM AIRCRAFT IF THE SITUATION SO DEMANDS.

THIS WILL BE EXECUTED ON SUN 11 SEP, SEE SEPARATE SIGNAL.

B. ROE 2. PURPOSE. REACTION TO ATTACK ON BRITISH FORCES LEBANON WHEN UNDER FIRE.

AMPLIFICATION. COMBRITFORLEB IS EMPOWERED TO CALL FOR AND DIRECT BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT IN REACTION TO AN ARTILLERY ATTACK IF HIS POSITION HAS BEEN HIT. HE WILL MAKE IT CLEAR WHETHER THE AIRCRAFT ARE REQUESTED FOR A SHOW OF STRENGTH OR FOR OFFENSIVE ACTION. AIRCRAFT MAY BE DIRECTED TO ATTACK ANY HOSTILE GUN POSITIONS KNOWN TO COMBRITFORLEB THROUGH UK OR MNF OR US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. LASER DESIGNATED BOMBS WILL BE USED TO MINIMISE DAMAGE IN LOCALITY OF TARGET.

AIR ATTACKS WILL BE COORDINATED WITH US FORCES.

C. ROE 3. PURPOSE. IMMEDIATE DEFENCE OF BRITISH FORCE LEBANON WHEN UNDER DIRECT ATTACK.

AMPLIFICATION. COMBRITFORLEB IS EMPOWERED TO CALL FOR AND DIRECT BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT IF HIS POSITION IS UNDER ATTACK OR IMMINENT THREAT OF ATTACK FROM ENEMY FORCES AND HIS OWN WEAPONS ARE NOT ABLE TO NEUTRALISE THIS ATTACK.

AIRCRAFT MAY BE DIRECTED TO ATTACK TARGETS VISIBLE TO COMBRITFORLEB FORCES AND WHICH ARE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ATTACK ON COMBRITFORLEB. AIR ATTACKS WILL BE COORDINATED WITH US FORCES.

D. ROE 4. PURPOSE. ASSISTANCE TO OPERATION BY THE MNF AS A WHOLE.

AMPLIFICATION. COMBRITFORLEB MAY REQUEST BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT TO ATTACK POSITIONS KNOWN TO BE HOSTILE TO MNF FORCES. THIS ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF MNF AMBASSADORS AND IS TO BE EXECUTED IN CONJUNCTION

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See note 9

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WITH US FORCES (WHO WILL CARRY OUT THE COORDINATION BETWEEN ALL THE MNF PARTICIPANTS). LASER DESIGNATED BOMBS ARE TO BE USED TO MINIMISE DAMAGE IN THE LOCALITY OF THE TARGETS.

2. ACTIONS UNDER RULES OF ENGAGEMENT 1 (ONE) 2 (TWO) AND 4 (FOUR) NEED MINISTERIAL APPROVAL. SEE DIRECTIVE BEING PASSED SEPARATELY SPECIFYING CHAIN OF COMMAND AND PROCEDURES. RULE OF ENGAGEMENT 3 (THREE) CAN BE USED NOW ON CBF CYPRUS AUTHORITY.

Special Distribution
See note 9

File Reference

DRAFTER'S NAME
(Block letters)

LT COL J M A NURTON

Extension

6356

Branch

DCDS

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Signature

JMA

Page.....3.....
3.....Pages

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Grade/
Rank

LT COL

Name
(Block letters)

J M A NURTON

kebanon Int sit Pt4



Sen b Fco 9.50 8.9.83

File No.

OUTWARD

Security Classification	
CONFIDENTIAL AND CYPHER	
Precedence	
IMMEDIATE	
DESKBY	2100 Z

Department

TELEGRAM

Drafted by
(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn.

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched

(Date)

(Time) Z

POSTBY Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z(G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.) CONFIDENTIAL AND CYPHER (Caveat/Privacy Marking)

(Codeword) (Deskby) Z

TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT (precedence) (post) Tel. No. of

AND TO (precedence/post) IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info)

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

Protection for British Contingent in MNF

In view of the present situation in Lebanon, Ministers have decided to send six Bucaneers to Cyprus as soon as possible. They will probably arrive in the course of tomorrow 9 September. When they have arrived it will be announced that the Bucaneers have been sent to Cyprus on a training mission and that they will also be available to provide the necessary protection for the British contingent to the MNF.

Copies to:-

Please tell the Americans at the appropriate level both in Beirut and Washington (in the State Department and Pentagon as necessary) of this decision. At the same time Beirut, in consultation with Brit for Leb, should ask the American Ambassador if American forces can in the short intervening period provide air or artillery protective cover for the British contingent should this

/be

be necessary. If it is judged desirable to make
as request also to the State Department and
Pentagon Washington should act appropriately.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

SECRET

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PRIME MINISTER

This is just to warn you that the
Buccaneers will probably do another
demonstration over the Lebanon tomorrow.
This is because there was a technical
problem during the first demonstration
(when they arrived) which the military
wish to clear up. I do not know the
precise timing but it is likely to be
early tomorrow morning.

A-J.C.

mt

12 September 1983

SECRET