

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 15

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

PS
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
~~MR. [unclear]~~
MR. EBERTON.
~~MR. [unclear]~~ MR. JAMES.
ED/NENAD
ED/MED
ED/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10

ED/....

ED/CONSULAR DEPT

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PUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 122230Z SEP 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2563 OF 12 SEPTEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, BEIRUT, BRITFORLEB, PARIS, ROME, CBFC,
DAMASCUS, BUDAPEST (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY)
PRIORITY TEL AVIV, JEDDA, UKNIS NEW YORK.

BEIRUT TELNO 502 (NOT TO ALL): LEBANON: SITREP

POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS. THE MAIN CURRENT PROBLEM IS SYRIAN INSISTENCE THAT ANY AGREEMENT SHOULD EXPLICITLY RULE OUT LAF DEPLOYMENT IN THE CHOUF. GENAYEL IS WILLING TO ACCEPT A REFERENCE TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT FORCES, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS MEANS THE ISF RATHER THAN LAF, BUT THE SYRIANS APPEAR DETERMINED TO HUMILIATE HIM. MCFARLANE IS IN JEDDA FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH PRINCE BANDAR AND MAY GO ON TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW.

MILITARY SITUATION

2. THE LAF BROKE UP LAST NIGHT'S ATTACK ON THEIR POSITIONS AT SUC EL GHARB WITH EFFECTIVE USE OF ARTILLERY. THE STATE DEPARTMENT

~~MILITARY SITUATION~~

~~2. THE LAF BROKE UP LAST NIGHT'S ATTACK ON THEIR POSITIONS AT~~
SUC EL GHARB WITH EFFECTIVE USE OF ARTILLERY. THE STATE DEPARTMENT
HAVE EVIDENCE OF PALESTINIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING BUT ARE
SCEPTICAL OF REPORTS OF DIRECT SYRIAN AND OTHER FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT.
THEY BELIEVE THAT THE SYRIANS HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING THE DRUZE WITH
WEAPONS, INTELLIGENCE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT; THERE MAY ALSO BE A FEW
SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS, OBSERVERS AND DRUZE VOLUNTEERS WITH
THE PSP MILITIA. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF PFLP, DFLP AND SA'ICA
PERSONNEL FIGHTING WITH THE DRUZE IN THE CHOUF. THE STATE DEPARTMENT
CANNOT CONFIRM REPORTS OF LIBYAN AND IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT AT SUC EL
GHARB, THOUGH IRANIANS HAVE BEEN SEEN MOVING TOWARDS THE AREA FROM
THE BEKA'A. THE AMERICANS SUSPECT THAT SOME IRANIANS MAY NOW BE
IN THE METH.

3. AN ICRC CONVOY WITH FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARRIVED IN DEIR EL
QAMAR TODAY UNDER DRUZE ESCORT. THE AMERICANS STILL BELIEVE IT
WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MNF CONTRIBUTORS TO ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT IN
BEIRUT STRESSING HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS (MY TELNO 2531). NEGOTIATIONS
FOR A LIMITED CEASEFIRE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED NOW THAT THE
LAF ARE IN CONTROL OF QABR CHAMOUN; THE AMERICANS ARE NOW
CONCENTRATING ON SUPPORTING THE ICRC'S RELIEF EFFORTS AT DEIR EL
QAMAR.

4. THE AMERICANS HAVE REPORTS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN THE KATA'IB AND
THE MURABITOUN IN THE KHARQUB AREA.

WRIGHT

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