

DD 211400Z BONN **IMMEDIATE**  
GRS 240  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 211400Z  
FM FCO 211200Z SEP 83  
TO IMMEDIATE BONN  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 479 OF 21 SEPTEMBER  
FOLLOWING FOR COLES, PRIME MINISTERS PARTY: LEBANON:  
SITUATION REPORT

*my*  
*h.a.*

1. LITTLE CHANGE IN MILITARY SITUATION. AFTER RELATIVE CALM YESTERDAY (20 SEPTEMBER) US NAVY AGAIN BOMBARDED DRUZE POSITIONS OVER NIGHT IN RESPONSE TO SHELLING OF US AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THERE HAS BEEN A FURTHER ATTACK THIS MORNING BY DRUZE AND THEIR ALLIES ON SOUQ-EL-GHARB WHICH LEBANESE ARMY HAS APPARENTLY CONTAINED. NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING OTHER MNF CONTINGENTS. PRESS HAVE REPORTED PRESENCE OF US MARINES IN SOUQ-EL-GHARB. THIS IS AN AIR AND NAVAL GUNFIRE LIAISON TEAM (8-10 MEN). AMERICANS EXPLAINED TO US EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT TEAM'S DEPLOYMENT TO SOUQ-EL-GHARB WAS NECESSARY TO DIRECT FIRING FROM US ARTILLERY AND SHIP/AIRCRAFT MORE DIRECTLY. AMERICANS CLAIMED THAT TEAM WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PART OF MNF CONTINGENT WHOSE DEPLOYMENT DID NOT THEREFORE REPRESENT EXTENSION OF MNF ROLE.
2. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION YET OF REPORTS THAT PRINCE BANDAR'S EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A CEASEFIRE HAVE FAILED. ADDITIONAL STICKING POINT APPEARS TO BE WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON LEBANESE SIDE.
3. SUBJECT TO ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S AGREEMENT, EXPECTED SHORTLY, PROGRAMME OF DIPLOMATIC ACTION BY EUROPEAN MNF CONTRIBUTORS SHOULD GET UNDERWAY TODAY, STARTING WITH AMERICANS, WHOM FRENCH HAVE AGREED SHOULD BE INFORMED A LITTLE IN ADVANCE OF APPROACHES IN OTHER CAPITALS.

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