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ZZ UKMIS NEW YORK

OO WASHINGTON

GRS 265

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FM F C O 271340Z SEP 83

TO FLASH UKMIS NEW YORK

TELEGRAM NUMBER 523 OF 27 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, ROME PARIS, PRIORITY DAMASCUS, BEIRUT,
MODUK.

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY

FCO TELNO 518: LEBANON: MNF

1. FURTHER TO OUR TUR, THE DEFENCE SECRETARY HAS NOW BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT A POSSIBLE BRITISH ROLE IN A NEW UN FORCE IN THE LEBANON AND HAS ASKED THAT HIS VIEWS SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.
2. THE DEFENCE SECRETARY ASSUMES THAT A UN FORCE WOULD REPLACE THE MNF AND NOT COMPLEMENT IT. HE BELIEVES THAT WE CANNOT JUDGE AT THIS STAGE THE MILITARY RISKS INVOLVED IN PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A UN FORCE SINCE THIS WOULD DEPEND UPON THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH IT WAS CREATED, ITS ROLE, COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS AND SO ON. FROM A POLITICAL VIEW, SHOULD THE MNF BE WITHDRAWN AND REPLACED BY A SUBSTANTIAL UN PRESENCE, THE ABSENCE OF ANY UK PARTICIPATION WOULD LEND CREDENCE TO THE IDEA THAT WE WERE IN THE LEBANON IN THE MNF SIMPLY AT THE BEHEST OF THE AMERICANS. MOREOVER, WERE THERE REALISTIC PROSPECTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO LASTING STABILITY IN THE LEBANON, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT ON MERITS FOR US TO PLAY NO PART IN THIS PROCESS.
3. THE DEFENCE SECRETARY THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD NOT AT THIS STAGE ADOPT A NEGATIVE APPROACH AND SHOULD ACTIVELY SEEK TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBLE ROLE AND COMPOSITION OF A UN FORCE. WE SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, CREATE ANY EXAGGERATED EXPECTATION ABOUT THE SCALE OF ANY BRITISH CONTRIBUTION, WHICH COULD NOT

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SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEED THAT WHICH WE MAKE TO THE MNF AT PRESENT
AND MIGHT HAVE A DIFFERENT COMPOSITION.

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MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMITED

NENAD
MED
DEFENCE D
PUSD
NEWS D
UND
NAD
WED
FINANCE D
SED

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR J LEAHY
MR WRIGHT
MR CARTLEDGE
MR EGERTON
MR STREETON
MR ADAMS
MR JAMES

COPIES TO

SIR R ARMSTRONG)

MR GOODALL)

CABINET OFFICE

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 FM F C O 271130Z SEP 83
 TO FLASH UKMIS NEW YORK
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 520 OF 27 SEPTEMBER
 REPEATED TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS,
 JEDDA.

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY
 YOUR TELNO 901: LEBANON: MNF

1. BEIRUT WILL BE TELEGRAPHING UPDATED SITREP. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT DETAILS OF CEASEFIRE TERMS: ARAB PRESS IN LONDON FOR EXAMPLE HAS SOME DETAILS ABOUT DEPLOYMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES, LEBANESE ARMY AND LEBANESE FORCES WHICH DO NOT APPEAR IN OFFICIAL TEXT QUOTED IN PARA 2 OF BEIRUT TELNO 539. OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IS RESIGNATION OF WAZZAN AND GOVERNMENT ON 26 SEPTEMBER. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS AN UNWRITTEN PART OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT OR AT WAZZAN'S OWN INITIATIVE.
2. STATE OF PLAY ON JOINT STATEMENT IS AS IN PARA 2(A) OF OUR TELNO 495.
3. ONLY CHANGE TO POINTS FOR DISCUSSION LISTED IN OUR TELNO 495 CONCERNS CEASEFIRE OBSERVERS. SEE UKMIS TELNO 889. SYRIANS CLEARLY DO NOT REGARD THEMSELVES AS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISING OBSERVERS. THE SECURITY COMMITTEE WHICH IS REPORTED TO BE MEETING TODAY IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE MATTERS FURTHER. WE SHARE URQUHART'S CONCERN THAT CEASEFIRE WILL UNRAVEL IF OBSERVERS ARE NOT PUT IN PLACE PROMPTLY. THE AMERICANS APPEAR EQUALLY AT A LOSS ABOUT HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS. SECRETARY OF STATE MIGHT LIKE TO CONSIDER OFFERING OUR HELP IN PRESSING SYRIAN AND LEBANESE GOVERNMENTS ON THIS POINT EG. IN SECRETARY OF STATE'S BILATERAL WITH KHADDAM WHICH COULD BE PRECEDED BY APPROACHES IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS.

HOWE

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MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMITED

NENAD	PS
MED	PS/LADY YOUNG
DEFENCE D	PS/MR LUCE
PUSD	PS/PUS
NEWS D	SIR J BULLARD
UND	SIR J LEAHY
NAD	MR WRIGHT
WED	MR CARTLEDGE
FINANCE D	MR EGERTON
SED	MR STREETON
	MR ADAMS
	MR JAMES

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cc HONG KONG: Future
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TO FLASH OTTAWA

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 284 OF 26 SEPTEMBER

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY)

FOLLOWING FOR PS/PRIME MINISTER

OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS 25/26 SEPTEMBER: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE FROM THE UK.

UNDERLINE THE NEXT WORD.

LEBANON: THE SYRIANS AND THE SAUDIS ANNOUNCED ON 25 SEPTEMBER THAT A CEASEFIRE HAD BEEN AGREED. FIGHTING IN BEIRUT CONTINUED IN TO THE EVENING OF 25 SEPTEMBER, BUT REPORTS ON THE MORNING OF 26 SEPTEMBER ARE THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS HOLDING. WE ARE SAYING THAT WE WARMLY WELCOME THE CEASEFIRE: THAT WE SHALL BE CONSULTING OUR PARTNERS IN THE MNF ON THE NEXT STEPS: AND THAT WE HOPE THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY THE CEASEFIRE WILL BE USED TO GOOD EFFECT.

FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE MNF COUNTRIES WILL BE CONSIDERING IN NEW YORK THE TEXT OF A JOINT STATEMENT. THE US CONTINUES TO LOOK TO THE UK TO CO-ORDINATE THIS EXERCISE. WE SHALL BE CIRCULATING A REVISED TEXT IN THE COURSE OF THE MORNING. WE HOPE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF OBSERVERS AND THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE MNF.

UNDERLINE THE NEXT WORD.

HONG KONG: FOLLOWING THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS MARKETS IN HONG KONG HAVE CONTINUED TO REACT BADLY. THIS WAS FURTHER AFFECTED BY ADVANCE RUMOURS ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SIR P CRADOCK'S FORTHCOMING NEW APPOINTMENT. REUTERS IN PEKING PUT OUT A STORY SAYING THAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY WOULD BE MAKING AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT LATER TODAY. IN HONG KONG LOCAL MARKETS REACTED BY SPECULATING THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE FUTURE. THE GOVERNOR, AFTER DISCUSSION WITH MR LUCE, RECOMMENDED THAT, IN ORDER TO COOL SPECULATION, AT LEAST THE SECTION OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT DEALING WITH SIR P CRADOCK'S APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG SHOULD BE BROUGHT FORWARD. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH THE NO 10 DUTY PRIVATE

SECRETARY, AUTHORITY FOR THIS WAS GIVEN AND HONG KONG RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT 0730 GMT: QUOTE SIR P CRADOCK WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AT THE END OF THE YEAR. THEREAFTER HE WILL BE TAKING UP A SPECIAL APPOINTMENT IN THE FCO AS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG UNQUOTE. BECAUSE OF THIS THE RELEASE OF THE FULL ANNOUNCEMENT IN LONDON, INCLUDING SIR P CRADOCK'S APPOINTMENT AS SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, WAS ALSO BROUGHT FORWARD TO 0900Z.

UNDERLINE THE NEXT WORD.

ZIMBABWE: MUGABE POLITELY DECLINED, ON GROUNDS OF TIREDNESS, AN OFFER BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CALL ON HIM AT GATWICK DURING A STOPOVER ON 24 SEPTEMBER. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW ON RETURN TO HARARE HE DENOUNCED THE UK FOR MEDDLING IN ZIMBABWE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS OVER THE SIX AIR FORCE OFFICERS AND ACCUSED US OF LOBBYING IRELAND, US AND CANADA TO RAISE THE CASE WITH HIM.

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