

Amman, 25 October, 1983


Dear Mr. President,

You were kind enough to suggest, Sir, that you valued my counsel. I find it my duty as a long time friend of the United States and your good self, to write to you at this most ominous time in the history of the Middle East and the world. I do so as an Arab who has lived most of his life in the centre of events in this area. I do so as a free man, a soldier and a father of a soldier. I write to you in the aftermath of the most recent outrage perpetrated in Beirut which claimed the lives of many young American and French soldiers - members of the Multi-National Peace Keeping Force.

My message is, that if the arrival of that Force on Lebanese soil was a bluff, then the bluff has been called. It leaves the United States and its European partners and, indeed, the free world, the choice of either withdrawing urgently from Lebanon, and, by implication, leaving the Middle East to whatever is its destiny or taking the alternative course - if you have the resolve and the means - of calling for an urgent, total and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces from all sovereign Lebanese soil.

The said withdrawals must be of Israel and Syria in alphabetical order and within a reasonable limited time frame. This call must be accompanied by a demand that all factions in the Lebanon meet urgently to resolve all the Lebanese causes of past, present and possible future conflicts. Representatives of any faction who abstain from attending a final conference of Lebanese national reconciliation would bear the historic responsibilities towards their factions and communities in regard to their rights, for all times to come.

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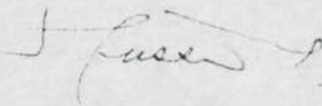
The conference, must thus aim at creating a just, free Lebanon, where the rights and dignity of all Lebanese are safeguarded together with their national sovereignty over all Lebanese soil. National Lebanese reconciliation must be accomplished and no further procrastination is either possible or acceptable. If the Lebanese, free of all external influences, are unwilling or unable to accomplish national reconciliation, then the Multi-National Force will withdraw once this has become apparent. Alternatively, it would withdraw once national reconciliation is attained.

Finally, the nations represented in the Multi-National Peace Keeping Force should act without reservation against any external power which refuses to withdraw its forces from all sovereign Lebanese soil within the set time frame. They should then expect the world community's total collaboration and support towards achieving these ends.

I see no other alternatives for you, Sir, your Government and people or your European partners in serving the cause of freedom and the world. The erosion of your nation's credibility and stature and the interests of so many should not be permitted to continue any further. Even assuming a remedy is possible beyond this point each passing day makes the dangers and the price more costly.

I am, Sir,

Your sincere friend,



The Honourable President Reagan
The White House
Washington D.C.
U.S.A.