

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16
: MNF

PS
PS/MR WICE
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EBERTON
SIR J BULLARD
ED/NENAD
ED/ED
ED/UND
ED/Defence... ..

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10

ED/~~CONULAR DEPT~~

Mr. Wright... ..

Mr. Cartledge... ..

PUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

MS

PP MOSCOW

GR 200

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 251500Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1138 OF 25 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE MODUK, WASHINGTON, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS,
INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, CAIRO, JEDDA, AMMAN, MOSCOW

WASHINGTON TELNO 3088 (NOT TO MOSCOW): **LEBANON**

IMMEDIATE

1. I ASKED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND URQUHART ON 24 OCTOBER WHETHER THEY HAD RECEIVED ANY FRESH REQUESTS FOR FURTHER UN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON FOLLOWING THE BOMB ATTACKS. EACH SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED NO SUCH REQUESTS. HOWEVER, SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND IN CONFIDENCE URQUHART SAID THAT US OFFICIALS INCLUDING MRS KIRKPATRICK HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH HIM. HE WAS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US HAD LOST ITS WAY IN RELATION TO LEBANON AND WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE MISSION OF THE MNF. NEITHER HE NOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD IT IN MIND TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF THE UN COULD PROVIDE AN OBSERVER GROUP ON A SCALE AND WITH A MANDATE

UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE MISSION OF THE MNF. NEITHER HE NOR THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL HAD IT IN MIND TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE. IT WOULD BE GOOD IF
THE UN COULD PROVIDE AN OBSERVER GROUP ON A SCALE AND WITH A MANDATE
WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MNF. HOWEVER IT WOULD
NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE A DECISION TO THIS
EFFECT UNLESS THERE HAD BEEN A PREVIOUS BEHIND THE SCENES UNDER-
STANDING AT A HIGH LEVEL BETWEEN AT LEAST THE US AND SYRIA AND
THE SOVIET UNION. SHORT OF THIS IT WOULD BE USELESS TO HOLD A DEBATE
IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. URQUHART ADDED THAT THE MNF CASUALTIES
WOULD HAVE A DISCOURAGING EFFECT ON POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS OF
OBSERVERS.

2. CHANCE CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
SUGGEST THAT URQUHART'S PERSONAL VIEWS ARE FAIRLY WIDELY HELD.
HE HAS REITERATED THEM TO ME THIS MORNING THOUGH MAKING IT CLEAR
THAT THE CHANCES OF CONSTRUCTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES UNDERSTANDING
WOULD DIMINISH WITH ACCUSATIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND SYRIA WERE
BEHIND THE BEIRUT BOMBINGS.

THOMSON

NNNN