

with AOC

GRS 280

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FM WASHINGTON 292220Z OCT 83.

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3214 OF 29 OCTOBER

INFO PRIORITY BEIRUT, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV

LEBANON

1. WHEN I CALLED ON EAGLEBURGER TODAY I UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR BEING CONSULTED ON ANY PLANS THE ADMINISTRATION MIGHT BE FORMING TO RETALIATE FOR LAST SUNDAY'S ATTACK ON THE MARINE BARRACKS IN BEIRUT. I REMINDED HIM THAT THERE WERE BRITISH TROOPS ON THE GROUND IN THE LEBANON AND THAT THEY COULD GET CAUGHT UP IN THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY U S RETALIATION. I POINTED OUT THAT BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST IN THIS WOULD BE INTENSE.

2. EAGLEBURGER SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTING US AND WOULD ENSURE THAT DAM, WHO WOULD BE OVERSEEING MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS IN HIS ABSENCE IN ISRAEL NEXT WEEK WITH MURPHY, WAS AWARE OF THIS DISCUSSION. HE SAID HE HIMSELF HAD NO IDEA WHAT PLANS IF ANY MIGHT BE SHAPING UP, BUT HE HAD NOTED REFERENCES IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH ON THURSDAY TO SOME FORM OF RETRIBUTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT ALSO HAVE PLANS AND THAT THE U S COULD NOT BE HELD ANSWERABLE FOR THEM IN ANY WAY.

3. EAGLEBURGER SAID HIS OWN VISIT TO ISRAEL WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH PLANS FOR RETALIATION, NOR WOULD IT RESULT IN ANY SURPRISES. HIS AIM WAS TO CARRY FORWARD A DIALOGUE WITH KIMCHE WHICH HAD BEGUN EARLIER THIS YEAR. HE HOPED TO INJECT A MORE INTIMATE NOTE INTO U S-ISRAELI POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS THAT HAD BEEN ABSENT IN RECENT MONTHS. THEY WOULD FOCUS ON A WHOLE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES, NOT JUST ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS.

WRIGHT

MIDDLE EAST  
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**THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED**

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