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7.11.83  
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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE

24 Grosvenor Square  
London W1A 1AE

The Rt Honorable Michael Heseltine, MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
Whitehall, London

Dear Mr. Heseltine,

I am pleased to pass the following message to you from our Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger:

"QUOTE: SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR BRITISH ASSISTANCE (U)

(S) DEAR COLLEAGUE:

DURING THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS, THE UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN LEBANON HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO ATTACK BY TERRORIST ELEMENTS. THESE ATTACKS CULMINATED IN THE BLOWING UP OF THE MARINE BARRACKS AT BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OCTOBER 23. THE OBVIOUS THRUST OF THESE ATTACKS IS TO RAISE AMERICAN CASUALTY LEVELS TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT WE MIGHT CONSIDER ALTERING OUR POSITION IN LEBANON. THIS WOULD PLACE THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE (MNF) AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IN A LESS TENABLE POSITION.

WHILE SOME US CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN AS A RESULT OF SNIPER FIRE, MOST LOSSES ARE ATTRIBUTED TO VEHICLE-DELIVERED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, EITHER REMOTELY DETONATED OR TRIGGERED BY A SUICIDE DRIVER. WITH YOUR COUNTRY'S EXPERIENCE IN RESPONDING TO SOPHISTICATED TERRORIST DEVICES, SUCH AS CAR BOMBS, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE YOU COULD PROVIDE ON THIS SUBJECT.

IF YOU ARE AMENABLE TO THIS PROPOSAL, THE DETAILS CAN BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN MY STAFF AND YOUR ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

SINCERELY, CAP

"UNQUOTE"

Original of this request being pouched through diplomatic channels.

Sincerely,

*N.D. Campbell*  
for

ALAN B. RENSHAW  
Colonel, USAF  
Defense Attache

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
Telephone 01-~~XXXXXX~~ 218 2111/3

MO 3/7/4

9th November 1983

Prime Minister.

For information.

AB 6.

MF

Dear Roger,

/ I attach a copy of a message from Mr Weinberger which we  
/ received on Monday. On receiving this message Mr Heseltine  
/ telephoned Mr Weinberger to indicate that we would do everything  
/ we could to meet his request. Also attached is the text of a  
formal reply to Mr Weinberger and I should be grateful if you could  
arrange for it to be despatched. As you will see my Secretary of  
State has agreed to provide two officers experienced in Explosives  
and Ordnance Disposal techniques to advise the Americans in Beirut.  
They will be able to give advice on operational tactics and  
procedures for locating and neutralising devices and on protective  
measures to counter attempts to plant them. Arrangements have been  
made via the British Embassy in Washington for these officers to deploy  
to Lebanon tomorrow for an initial reconnaissance.

I am copying this letter to John Coles.

Yours ever

Mich Evans

(N H R EVANS)  
Private Secretary

R L Bone Esq

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DRAFT FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO MR WEINBERGER

Thank you for your letter seeking assistance in responding to terrorist devices in Beirut about which I called you immediately I received it. As you know, I was appalled by the bomb attack on your barracks at the end of last month. We have considerable expertise in dealing with this sort of threat, and I have arranged that two officers with relevant and up-to-date experience should be made available to provide advice to your contingent of the MNF.

As you suggested, the British Defence Attache in Washington will make detailed arrangements with your staff. Providing it is convenient for you, our experts would be able to arrive in Beirut on or after 10th November. I hope you will find their assistance helpful.

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