

IMMEDIATE

LUK 874/23

CONFIDENTIAL

FDW G 129/28

RECEIVED	
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION	
NEW DELHI	
CHANCERY HOUSE	
29 NOV 1983	
DUPLICATES	
OF LETTER
OF ENCLOSURES
LOCATION

DD 282330Z NEW DELHI

GRS 350

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DESKBY 282330Z
FM FCO 281700Z NOV 83
TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 933 OF 28 NOVEMBER

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY/PRIME MINISTER: AND FOR PUS
SITUATION REPORT 27/28 NOVEMBER
LEBANON

1. BEIRUT/SHOUF REMAIN GENERALLY QUIET, WITH LIMITED CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS. HMS FEARLESS ARRIVED OFF BEIRUT ON THE MORNING OF 28 NOVEMBER. GLAMORGAN AND BRAZEN LEFT THE AREA ON THE AFTERNOON OF 28 NOVEMBER TO TAKE UP GULF PATROL DUTIES. THE PENTAGON HAS DENIED CLAIMS THAT SYRIAN AIR DEFENCES REPELLED US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OVER NORTH LEBANON ON 26/27 NOVEMBER.

2. PRESIDENT ASSAD MADE HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE ON 27 NOVEMBER SINCE ENTERING HOSPITAL 2 WEEKS AGO. LENGTHY CONVALESCENCE IS LIKELY TO DELAY A MEETING WITH GEMAYEL. BUT THE LEBANESE AND SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MET ON 26 NOVEMBER. GEMAYEL, NOW IN ROME, IS DUE TO MEET REAGAN ON 1 DECEMBER. THE US ADMINISTRATION HAS DENIED THAT CURRENT TALKS BETWEEN REAGAN AND SHAMIR WILL COVER IMPROVED STRATEGIC COOPERATION.

3. AROUND TRIPOLI, FIGHTING BETWEEN PLO REBELS AND LOYALISTS ON 27 NOVEMBER KILLED SEVERAL PEOPLE. THERE IS SOME DISPUTE OVER THE SAUDI/SYRIAN PEACE PLAN. ONE LOYALIST LEADER HAS SAID HIS MEN WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM PALESTINIAN CAMPS NEAR TRIPOLI: AND ONE REBEL LEADER MAINTAINS THAT ARAFAT MUST RESIGN BEFORE LOYALISTS CAN LEAVE TRIPOLI. THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE IS VISITING DAMASCUS ON 28 NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS THE PLAN WITH THE FORMER LEBANESE PM KARAMI.

FALKLANDS

4. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE CONFIRMED TO THE EMBASSY THAT BUSH WILL ATTEND ALFONSIN'S INAUGURATION ON 10 DECEMBER.

BANGLADESH

5. A CURFEW HAS BEEN IMPOSED IN DHAKA FROM 1500 LOCAL TIME ON 28 NOVEMBER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, AFTER AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION TURNED VIOLENT. POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAS BEEN SUSPENDED. MARTIAL LAW IS BEING STRICTLY ENFORCED.

UNGA: VOTING IN FIRST COMMITTEE

8. VOTING IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES) IS NOW ALMOST COMPLETE. UK RECORD (AND THAT OF MOST OF OUR ALLIES) LOOKS WORSE THAN LAST YEAR. THIS REFLECTS GREATER PROPAGANDA EFFORTS BY THE SOVIET BLOC AND MORE EXTREME RESOLUTIONS TABLED BY LEADING NON-ALIGNED STATES.

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