

LLG NR 661/4

ZZ F C O

00 BEIRUT

00 DAMASCUS

00 WASHINGTON

00 TEL AVIV

00 MODUK

*Damascus Tel 389*

*M*

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IMM  
Ø41445Z DEC 83  
FROM COMMCEN HSP  
TO MODUK

CONFIDENTIAL UK COMMS ONLY  
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GRS 18Ø  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM ATHENS Ø41445Z DEC 83  
TO FLASH F C O  
TELNO 724 OF 4 DECEMBER 1983  
AND TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, WASHINGTON, TEL AVIV AND MODUK.

F C O TEL NO 554 TO ATHENS AND BEIRUT TEL NO 693 TO F C O

LEBANON

THANK YOU FOR THIS ADVICE. MINISTERS ARE CONCERNED NOT TO HAVE A  
ROW WITH THE AMERICANS OVER THIS. WE ARE THEREFORE TAKING THE  
FOLLOWING LINE:-

WAS THE UK CONSULTED (UNDERLINED)

MNF CONTRIBUTORS REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT AND WE WERE INFORMED  
SHORTLY BEFORE THE US RESPONSE. IT HAS LONG BEEN THE POSITION THAT  
EACH CONTRIBUTOR HAS THE RIGHT TO ACT IN SELF-DEFENCE. IN A FAST  
MOVING SITUATION, THE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN MUST BE FOR  
EACH CONTRIBUTOR TO DECIDE.

(IF PRESSED. (LAST TWO WORDS UNDERLINED) THE US HAVE MADE  
CLEAR THAT THEY SAW THE ATTACKS ON THEIR RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT  
AS A THREAT).

DO YOU SUPPORT THE ACTION? (UNDERLINED)

AS I HAVE SAID, WE RECOGNISE THE RIGHT OF EACH CONTRIBUTOR TO SELF  
DEFENCE.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BRITISH MNF CONTINGENT? (UNDERLINED)

OUR CONTINGENT IS FULLY IN THE PICTURE AND WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH  
WITH US AND OTHER MNF CONTINGENTS OVER THE MEASURES NECESSARY  
FOR THEIR SECURITY.

R H O D E S  
BT

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