

16

PS  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/US  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR EBERTON  
SIR J BULLARD  
ED/NEAD  
ED/NEO  
ED/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
CABINET OFFICE D10



IMMEDIATE

EXACT COPY

ED/DEFENCE  
ED/CONSULAR DEPT

FUSD  
NEWS D (2)  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

*mt*

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM BEIRUT 151140Z DEC 83  
TO IMMEDIATE F.C.O.  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 722 OF 15 DECEMBER 1983  
INFO IMMEDIATE DAMASCUS, MODUK (D14 AND PS/S OF S)  
SAVING BRITFORLEB

DAMASCUS TELNOS 412 AND 413 TO FCO: BRITFORLEB/PSP.

1. A PSP REPRESENTATIVE (SALLOUM) RANG EMBASSY AT 1145 HOURS LOCAL TODAY TO WARN US THAT LEBANESE FORCES (KATAEB) HAD MOVED UP UNDER COVER OF BRITFORLEB UNIT GUARDING TRAD BANK. PSP WISHED TO FIRE ON KATAEB BUT WERE VERY ANXIOUS NOT TO ENDANGER BRITFORLEB. BY ARRANGEMENT BRITFORLEB WITHDREW FROM TRAD BANK AREA, BEFORE PSP OPENED FIRE (BUT NOT BEFORE KATAEB HAD DONE SO.)

2. IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT PSP LEADERS APPROACHED US IN THIS WAY. SALLOUM SAID PSP DEEPLY APPRECIATED BRITFORLEB'S ROLE.

PALMER  
BT



~~Mr. Coles~~

BRIEFING DICTATED OVER THE TELEPHONE FROM NICK EVANS MOD FOR  
DAVID BARCLAY

Lebanon Cease-fire Discussions

Ad hoc talks have been underway in Damascus over the past week or so on means of consolidating the cease-fire. Most of the major factions in the Lebanon have been represented. The level and frequency of the meetings has varied: a major discrete session was held on 9 December. We have no knowledge of any further sessions being planned for today or tomorrow.

Meetings of the Cease-fire Committee in Beirut have not been held since 2 December, largely because of a dispute over hostages. It is hoped that the Committee will start meeting again shortly.

Line to take:

Cease-fire talks have been held both in Beirut (where the British contingent has provided guards) and in Damascus, involving all main factions. Welcome any move to consolidate the cease-fire and reduce tension.

15.12.83



10 DOWNING STREET

I agree Report

but can I be

told if the

Security talks have

begun in Damascus

or forecast?

s/s Defence.

BRITFORLETS.

Some sporadic firing in vicinity of HQ this morning. Two RPG 7 rocket shells hit the tobacco factory. Also some bursts of small arms fire from inter-factional fighting has now stopped. COM-Britforlets believes that firing was not directed at his HQ and he is relaxed. Incident was



been reported by media  
as Keith Graves (BBC)  
was in vicinity at the  
time.

Further request from  
BBC TV news for  
interview but would have  
to be done before 12.50pm.

Suggest reject.

Duty Clerk

for: NICK EVANS

15.12.83