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TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 552 OF 27 DECEMBER  
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME  
INFO MODUK

YOUR TELNO SIC19E TO RESIDENT CLERK (NOW BEING REPEATED FOR COPY ADDRESSEES): LEBANON CEASE-FIRE COMMITTEE

1. WE ARE NATURALLY KEEN TO BE HELPFUL OVER ANY REQUEST WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE AND HENCE CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE-MAKING IN LEBANON. WE MUST, HOWEVER, IN THE PRESENT DANGEROUS SITUATION TAKE ALL POSSIBLE PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THAT ANY NEW DEPARTURES DO NOT CONTRADICT OUR OVERALL POLITICAL AND MILITARY STANCE AND THOSE OF OUR MNF PARTNERS. DECISIONS ON MATTERS OF THIS KIND HAVE TO BE TAKEN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

2. A GOOD DEAL MUST ALSO CLEARLY DEPEND ON THE FORM AND SOURCE OF THE FORMAL REQUEST WHICH YOU WILL ULTIMATELY RECEIVE AND THE POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT AT THE TIME.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE SHOULD WELCOME CLARIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

(A) WHY IS IT CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR THE NEW SUB-COMMITTEE TO MEET ON A 24-HOUR BASIS? A 24-HOUR SYSTEM COULD BE LESS EFFECTIVE BY REMOVING NATURAL DEADLINES AND THUS REDUCING TIME PRESSURES FOR AGREEMENT. MORE MEETING TIME MIGHT DELIVER LESS AND NOT (NOT) MORE AGREEMENT.

(B) DEPENDING ON THE ANSWERS TO (A), WHY SHOULD THE SUB-COMMITTEE NOT MEET AT THE TRAD BANK OR SOME OTHER VENUE THAN INSIDE BRITFORLEB'S HQ? WHAT ALTERNATIVES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED?

(C) HAVE THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BEEN FULLY WORKED OUT, NOTABLY THE REQUIREMENT FOR CONTROL AND PARKING AT A

To deal immediately with a breach

Because we can't defend the bank on we have been in the President mentioned this should be worked



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9373 - 1

SAFE DISTANCE OF VEHICLES ARRIVING AND DEPARTING THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT? UNEXPECTED VEHICLES AND VISITORS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE CATERED FOR. ALL THIS WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF EFFORT: COMMANDER BRITFORLEB HAS PRESUMABLY ALSO PUT HIS SUCCESSOR IN THE PICTURE.

(D) WOULD THE CONSTANT PRESENCE OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN PRACTICE MAKE BRITFORLEB HQ NOT USUABLE FOR OFF-DUTY PURPOSES AND THUS ENTAIL REGULAR COMMUTING OF BRITFORLEB PERSONNEL BY LANDING CRAFT OR HELICOPTER TO HMS FEARLESS?

4. GRATEFUL FOR ANSWERS ON THESE POINTS DESKBY 290900Z, TOGETHER WITH ANY FURTHER NEWS OF WHEN THE FORMAL REQUEST CAN BE EXPECTED. IF ONE IS RECEIVED MEANWHILE, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE POINTS IN PARA 1 ABOVE AND REPORT.

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MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMITED

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MED

DEFENCE DEPT

FUSD

NEWS DEPT

UND

NAD

VED

SED

ECOD(E)

FINANCE DEPT

PROTOCOL DEPT

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

PS/FUS

SIR J BULLARD

SIR J LEAHY

MR WRIGHT

MR CARLEDGE

MR MACINNES

MR ADAMS

MR EGERTON

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