

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

PA 16

MIDDLE EAST

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
SIR J BULLARD
ED/NENAD
ED/MED
ED/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10



ADVANCE COPY
IMMEDIATE

ED/...
ED/CONSULAR DEPT

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FROM SAN FRANCISCO 040630Z MAR 83.

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 13 OF 4 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

ROUTINE BONN, PARIS, ROME, AMMAN, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, MOSCOW,
DAMUSCUS, BEIRUT, JEDDA.

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH SHULTZ AT PALO ALTO
ON 3 MARCH: MIDDLE EAST.

LEBANON

1. SHULTZ SAID THAT HABIB WAS INCHING CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON THE LEBANON. IT WAS HARD TO SAY WHETHER HE WOULD SUCCEED BUT THINGS HAD COME TOGETHER QUICKLY IN THE PAST. IT WAS HOWEVER AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER THE SYRIANS WOULD DELIVER WHEN THE US HAD A WITHDRAWAL PLAN TO PUT TO THEM.

2. SHULTZ SAID THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE MNF HAD BEEN VERY WELCOME. THE DISPOSITION AND SIZE OF THE FORCE WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED WAS VERY MUCH IN HABIB'S MIND. MEANWHILE, IT WAS ENCOURAGING THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY SEEMED TO BE DOING A BIT BETTER.

3. MR PYM SAID THAT THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WOULD BE VERY CRITICAL. THE PROBLEM WAS HOW TO PERSUADE ISRAEL TO PLAY ITS PART IN THE PEACE PROCESS. KING HUSSEIN WAS BEING POSITIVE AND BRAVE (SOME THOUGHT TOO MUCH SO FOR HIS OWN SAFETY). IF HE WAS ABLE AFTER HIS NEXT MEETING WITH ARAFAT TO PUT A PROPOSAL FORWARD, AND IF THERE WERE NO RESPONSE IN THE FORM OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEBANON AND A FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS, THE POSITION WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS. THE SOVIET SAM 5'S IN SYRIA MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE ONLY AN APERITIF.

4. SHULTZ SAID THAT HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT A GENUINE MOVE BY HUSSEIN WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT IN ISRAEL, THOUGH HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A DANGER THAT THIS HAD ALREADY TO SOME EXTENT BEEN DISCOUNTED. BUT TO HAVE ANOTHER ARAB IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WITH PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AND THE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE ARAB COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE WOULD BE QUOTE A BIG EVENT UNQUOTE. IT WOULD BRING THE ISRAELIS TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, THOUGH NOT REVOLUTIONISE THEIR ATTITUDE: THEIR POSITION WOULD BE TOUGH. ON THE FREEZE, SHULTZ SAID THAT THE WORD WAS AMBIGUOUS. THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE ISRAELIS AGREEING TO FREEZE THE MOVEMENT OF JEWS INTO THE SETTLEMENTS (THICKENING), BUT THEY MIGHT FREEZE QUOTE NEW GROUND-BREAKING INTO NEW AREAS UNQUOTE. HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT, BUT THEY MIGHT DO SO IF THIS WAS MADE A CONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND IF THE DEFINITION OF FREEZE WAS A REASONABLE ONE. FINALLY, HE AGREED THAT IF THERE WERE NO CHANGE IN THE POSITION BY END MARCH OR EARLY APRIL THE PEACE PROCESS WOULD BE QUOTE DESTINED FOR DISAPPOINTMENT UNQUOTE.

5. THE SECRETARY OF STATE RE-EMPHASISED THE WEIGHT BEING PLACED ON HUSSEIN AND THE NEED FOR A FREEZE AND FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON. HUSSEIN WOULD BE VERY EXPOSED IF HE CAME FORWARD ON HIS OWN. SHULTZ SAID THAT HE WOULD BE EXPOSED ALSO IF HE DID NOT: THERE WAS A DOWNSIDE RISK IN HIS NOT COMING INTO THE PEACE PROCESS. HE DID HOWEVER AGREE WITH MR PYM THAT THE ISRAELIS MUST PLAY THEIR PART.

ARAB LEAGUE VISIT TO LONDON

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FCO PASS ALL ADDRESSEES

BEAVEN

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