

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

ADVANCE COPIES

X 27

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR J LEAHY
MR WRIGHT
MR CARTLEDGE
MR NACINNES
MR ADAMS
MR JENKINS
MR EGERTON

COPIES TO:
MR GOODALL
SIR R ARMSTRONG
CABINET OFFICE

No 10. DOWNING ST

HD/NENAD
HD/MED
HD/DEFENCE DEPT
HD/PUSD
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/UND
HD/NAD
HD/WED
HD/SED
ED/ECD (E)
ED/FINANCE DEPT
ED/PROTOCOL DEPT
RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

ADVANCE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 080930Z

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 080020Z FEB 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 130 OF 7 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PARIS, ROME, BEIRUT,

PRIORITY DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, JEDDA, CAIRO, MOSCOW

MY TELNO 126; LEBANON

1. AGENCY REPORTS OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND'S STATEMENT IN THE HAGUE THAT FRANCE IS MAKING FRESH MOVES AT THE UN TO ALLOW THE REPLACEMENT OF THE MNF IN LEBANON WITH UN TROOPS AND THAT SUCH MOVES HAVE BEEN UNDER WAY "IN THE LAST FEW HOURS" HAVE CAUSED MUCH INTEREST HERE. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL URQUHART ASKED US THIS EVENING WHETHER WE COULD EXPLAIN WHAT LAY BEHIND IT. WE QUOTED TO HIM FROM PARIS TELNO 149. URQUHART SAID THAT NEITHER HE NOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL

TELNO 149. URQUHART SAID THAT NEITHER HE NOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAD HEARD ANYTHING FROM THE FRENCH THOUGH AMBASSADOR DE NANTEUIL WAS CALLING ON PEREZ DE CUELLAR TOMORROW, 8 FEBRUARY.

2. URQUHART SAID THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO PROTECT PEREZ DE CUELLAR, WHOSE INSTINCT WAS TO TRY TO BE OBLIGING, FROM BEING CAUGHT BY SOME "GRANDSTAND PLOY" BY THE FRENCH. IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN BEIRUT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE INSERTION OF A UN FORCE. NOT ONLY WAS IT DOUBTFUL THAT THERE WAS ANY LONGER A CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OF SUFFICIENT WEIGHT TO INVITE THE UN IN, BUT TROOP CONTRIBUTORS WOULD BE UNWILLING TO RISK THE LIVES OF THEIR MEN (OF THE CONTRIBUTORS TO UNIFIL HE THOUGHT THAT ONLY THE FIJIANS MIGHT BE PREPARED TO VOLUNTEER). IN HIS VIEW THE MOST USEFUL DIPLOMATIC MOVE THAT FRENCH COULD MAKE WOULD BE TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE AMERICANS COULD TALK TO THE RUSSIANS.

3. URQUHART SAID THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR HAD CALLED IN THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION. TROYANOVSKY HAD BEEN EVASIVE WITHOUT BEING TOTALLY NEGATIVE. HE HAD CLAIMED IGNORANCE OF ANY FRENCH INITIATIVE.

4. THE FRENCH MISSION HERE TELL US THAT THEIR INFORMATION IS CONFINED TO AGENCY REPORTS, THAT THEY HAVE NO INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT DE NANTEUIL CHECKED THE REPORTS WITH THE QUAI BUT OBTAINED NO CLARIFICATION.

5. PEREZ DE CUELLAR ISSUED A SHORT STATEMENT TODAY EXPRESSING HIS DEEP ANXIETY ABOUT THE SITUATION BUT MAKING CLEAR THAT THE UN WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED. URQUHART REMAINS OF THE VIEW THAT THERE IS NOTHING THE UN CAN DO AT PRESENT "TO REDEEM THIS TRIBAL MESS".

MARGETSON

NNNN