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MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 16

PS
PS/ME WCE
PS/FUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR SPERTON
SIR J BULLARD
ED/NEAD
ED/ED
ED/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE D10

ED/.....

ED/CONSULAR DEPT

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FUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK



CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 191500Z

FM STOCKHOLM 191450Z JAN 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER UKDEL CDE 022 OF 19 JANUARY 1984
INFO PRIORITY DAMASCUS, BEIRUT, TEL AVIV, OMAN, UKMIS NEW YORK
WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS, ROME, MOSCOW

FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY
SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO ON 19 JANUARY: MIDDLE
EAST

1. SECRETARY OF STATE RAISED THE MIDDLE EAST AS AN EXAMPLE
OF AN AREA IN WHICH INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE NEEDED TO BE
RESTORED. AS PART OF A CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT WE
HOPED THE SOVIET UNION WOULD ENCOURAGE SYRIA TO ADOPT A
CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE BOTH IN THE MAIN ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE IN
GENERAL AND SPECIFICALLY OVER PEACE IN LEBANON.

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2. GROMYKO SAID THAT THE SOVIET POSITION ON LEBANON WAS CLEAR. UK, US, ITALIAN AND FRENCH TROOPS SHOULD ALL BE PULLED OUT. THEY ONLY COMPLICATED THE SITUATION. THE LEBANESE SHOULD SETTLE THEIR OWN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE SOVIET UNION COULD NOT SPEAK FOR SYRIA. THE SYRIANS HAD, HOWEVER, MADE THEIR POSITION CLEAR ON MANY OCCASIONS. IF ALL ISRAELI AND US TROOPS WERE PULLED OUT FIRST, THE SYRIANS WOULD ALSO WITHDRAW. THIS WOULD CREATE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE VARIOUS FACTIONS IN LEBANON COULD SORT OUT THEIR OWN AFFAIRS AND RALLY BEHIND A COALITION GOVERNMENT OF SOME SORT. THE US SHOULD WITHDRAW NOT ONLY ITS GROUND FORCES BUT ALSO ITS SHIPS WHICH WERE CURRENTLY SHELLING LEBANESE CITIES.

3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT THE MNF TROOPS WERE THERE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE LEBANESE PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER AND SUPPORT A SINGLE GOVERNMENT. WE FEARED THAT IF THE MNF WAS WITHDRAWN NOW THERE COULD BE MUCH BLOODSHED IN AND AROUND BEIRUT. WE THOUGHT IT SENSIBLE FOR A UN FORCE TO BE PUT IN OR THE FUNCTIONS OF THE EXISTING UN FORCES EXPANDED. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HOPED THAT GROMYKO WOULD GIVE THIS POSITIVE CONSIDERATION. OUR OBJECTIVE WAS THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM THE LEBANON, INCLUDING THE MNF.

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD ANOTHER WORD ABOUT LEBANON/UN ON THE WAY OUT. GROMYKO SAID THAT THE KEY THING WAS TO REMOVE THE MNF. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT CHEYSSON HAD RAISED THE UN QUESTION WITH HIM IN VERY SIMILAR TERMS TO THOSE USED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE. GROMYKO SAID THAT IT WAS REALLY A QUESTION FOR THE SYRIANS AND FOR THE LEBANESE FROM WHOM A PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE TO COME. JEMAYEL WAS NOT THE WHOLE OF THE LEBANON (THOUGH GROMYKO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS PART OF IT). IN SHORT GROMYKO HAD AMPLE OCCASION TO SAY NO AND DID NOT DO SO.

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SENT AT 191516Z HHXV~~XXXX~~