

#42



~~SECRET~~
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 07 SEP 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552 14 March 1983
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 18-M-1325

X

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Incidents Between the USMC and IDF

1. For the past six months, forces from the US Marine Corps have conducted operations in Lebanon professionally and with good discipline. For more than three months, routine USMC patrols in the Sabada area have been conducted daily with the same professionalism and discipline. We will continue to conduct operations in the same fashion. It is also clear that adequate communications and coordination mechanisms exist on the ground in Lebanon to prevent incidents between the US forces and the Israeli Defense Forces. Therefore, it is difficult to understand the recent unprofessional behavior of the usually well-disciplined IDF. In fact, the most recent incidents appear to be a deliberate effort to discredit the US component of the MNF.
2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are concerned that a continuation of these IDF provoked incidents will have a deep and far reaching impact on the good relationships between the military forces of both nations. If the US forces in Lebanon are to carry out their mission and help to create a climate of security in Lebanon and, consequently, contribute to the security of Israel, it is imperative that the artificially created friction between the forces of the United States and the Israeli Defense Forces cease immediately.
3. The JCS strongly urge that you convey their concern to Israeli Defense Minister Aram and to Secretary Shultz for his discussion with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir.

Handwritten note

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 07 2018

John W. Vessey, Jr.
JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

14 MAR 83

~~SECRET~~

RI

380-85-0023, bx 15, Lebanon (Mar)

18-M-1325