

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JUL 30 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
From: George P. Shultz
Subject: U.S. Participation in Multinational Force Patrols in East Beirut

President Gemayel has asked for patrols by the Multinational Force (MNF) in East Beirut, with the participation of U.S. forces. French and Italian participation may be contingent on U.S. agreement to play a role. The proposed patrols involve a mounted, mobile MNF presence with the LAF on the main boulevards of East Beirut strictly as a presence. The mission of the MNF would remain unchanged. There would be no fixed U.S. positions, no security enforcement responsibilities of any sort, and U.S. forces would not be near any remaining Israeli presence there. The intelligence community agrees that U.S. Marines are unlikely to become involved in hostilities if they participate in mobile patrols in East Beirut, although their greater exposure increases the risk of isolated incidents. We would, of course, condition our deployment on receiving assurances from the Christian militia leadership as well as on the agreement of the government of Lebanon that it has the agreement of the Christian militia leadership. *The U.S. patrols will not be a backdrop for LAF military operations.*

Although the proposed patrols would be outside the airport where the U.S. Marines are now, they would still be within the MNF mandate as agreed with the Lebanese. U.S. participation in MNF patrols would also be consistent with our report to the Congress under the War Powers Resolution which spoke in terms of the entire city of Beirut. A shift away from the airport deployment, therefore, would not compel a new report under the terms of the War Powers Resolution.

However, we believe advance Congressional consultations are essential. Congress may take the view that U.S. decisions are being made piece-meal, without adequate consultation on the full extent of U.S. plans. If you approve the deployment, we will inform the leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees before the patrols begin.

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Ambassador Draper believes a positive response to Gemayel's request is very important. Gemayel faces a crucial **no-confidence** vote on Tuesday when the National Assembly considers his new Cabinet and its program, including possibly the appointment of the military commission to carry out negotiations with the Israelis on southern Lebanon security arrangements. MNF patrols in East Beirut would be a dramatic psychological boost, especially given the feeling among many Muslims that East Beirut--controlled by Christian militia--has been treated more lightly by the government security forces than predominantly Muslim West Beirut.

This decision would be consistent with the policy goals you established for the next phase of U.S. involvement in the Lebanon negotiations. U.S. leadership on this issue would be an early and important demonstration of U.S. will to act and an important incentive to the French and Italians for their cooperation in our Phase II objectives.

We recommend, therefore, that you approve the deployment of U.S. forces into East Beirut for limited patrols along the lines described above.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 30 JUL 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 USC 5522
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
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