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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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10 FEB 1984

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Redeployment Plan (U)

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WWS  
Date: AUG 13 2018

LEBANON

(U) This memorandum provides a plan to redeploy our USMNF forces from Beirut airport to ships offshore. It also provides a plan to evacuate our military personnel should the situation in Lebanon deteriorate rapidly and necessitate such an action. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and USCINCEUR have provided initial planning estimates and are in the process of refining estimates for each plan.

(U) In the short time since you announced the decision to redeploy the Marines at Beirut airport to ships offshore, a drastic change has taken place in the factors and circumstances that led to that decision.

- Positions immediately to the north and east of the airport (within a few hundred yards, in some cases), which were controlled by the friendly LAF are now occupied by Druze militia. These militia are from areas in the Metn which were bombarded heavily by naval gunfire, and there is a good possibility that they will retaliate against our Marines.

- LAF capability is reduced markedly due to defections, desertions, and heavy fighting.

- Noncombatant evacuation operations will begin as early as 10 February 1984.

- British forces have withdrawn.

(U) In addition, as I am sure you understand from conversations with Jim Baker and others, many Republican Congressmen and some Republican Senators feel very strongly that the Marine deployment from the airport to ships should take place at the earliest possible date. In fact, it was reported to me by those who attended the House Republican Conference yesterday that a great deal of anger was expressed when briefers indicated that redeployment might not be complete until late spring or early summer.

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(S) Given these factors, and the rapidly changing situation, the following plans are presented for your consideration. Each plan presupposes prior consultations with our MNF partners and President Gemayel and would observe four basic principles:

- Tactical integrity of our units must be maintained.
- Our personnel must be adequately protected.
- Our equipment should not be abandoned.
- U.S. credibility should be preserved.

(S) Plan A - Phased Redeployment Plan

(S) This plan assumes that the current crisis is resolved and a reasonably stable Lebanese Government emerges. It provides for a prudent redeployment of our Marines from Beirut International Airport (BIA) to ships afloat. It implements equipment deliveries, LAF training, anti-terrorist training, counter battery fire capability and turns over control of BIA to the LAF.

(S) The USMNF would complete the redeployment in a maximum of sixty days or less, with the first 500 Marines redeployed by 1 March 1984.

(S) The plan is flexible in that redeployment can be expedited or delayed, depending on the situation. D-Day for this plan was 7 February 1984; we are at D+3 and holding. A timetable for this plan follows:

- PRIOR TO D-DAY
  - After GOL agreement, pol-mil consultations with MNF allies.
  - "Lean forward" to maximum extent consistent with security.
- D-DAY (Assumed 7 Feb)
  - Presidential statement.
  - GOL statements.
  - MNF statements.
  - GOI, Arab friends and NATO allies informed.
  - Offer by State Department to receive requests for noncombatant evacuation operations (NEO) if required; encourage unilateral action if BIA open.

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- **ASSESSMENT PERIOD DURING FLUID SITUATION IN LEBANON**
  - Assess GOL stability and representative nature.
  - Assess LAF cohesiveness and ability to assimilate accelerated flow of equipment, additional training and other support requirements.
  - Assess reasonableness and security of equipment/ammo which is being shipped or currently enroute to LAF.
  - Consultations with MNF and other allies as appropriate.
  - Consultations with GOL.
  - Assess impact of NEO execution in conjunction with USMNF withdrawal.
  - Decision to proceed with remainder of plan, either fully or in part.
  - USCINCEUR to request appropriate transportation for NEO and backload of USMNF equipment (if shipping available not adequate).
  
- **D-DAY TO D+10**
  - Surge equipment and ammo deliveries to LAF. Reassess periodically.
  - Continue consultations as required.
  - Announce JUSLEBCOM (Joint US/Lebanese Commission) to coordinate redeployment to ships and supporting moves of LAF.
  - Complete counterbattery, Military Training Team (MTT) survey/assessment.
  - Deploy additional MTTs beyond current levels.
  - Commence NEO, if applicable, to be completed prior to USMNF reduction ashore.
  
- **D+11 TO D+30**
  - USMNF completes move offshore\*
  - JUSLEBCOM meets.
  - Complete remaining MTT surveys/assessments.
  - Maintenance MTT.

\*Actual redeployment date is subject to continuing assessment of the situation in Lebanon.

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- Counter-terrorism assessment/concept.
  - Reposition Q-36 radar.
  - IOC of fire support coordination center aboard ship.
  - Initiate movement of USMNF supplies and equipment to ships.
  - LAF assumes some positions at BIA.
  - Initial surge of APCs arrives.
- 
- D+30 TO D+45
    - USMNF completes move offshore.\*
    - Remaining surge of APCs arrives.
    - Ship high tech ammo.
    - Counter-terrorism training begins.
    - Deploy maintenance MTF.
    - Continue accelerated delivery of ammo and equipment.
    - Deception ops, if applicable.
  - D+45 TO D+60
    - USMNF completes move offshore.\*
    - Initial shipment of tanks.
    - Continue accelerated delivery of equipment and ammo.
    - Deception ops, if applicable.

NOTE: \*Actual redeployment date is subject to continuing assessment of the situation in Lebanon.

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(S) Depending on the ground situation and the status of the Lebanese Government, we will continue our delivery of ammunition and equipment for the LAF and continue counter-terrorism training.

PLAN B. SHORT TERM EVACUATION PLAN

(S) This plan assumes that the current crisis in Beirut is not resolved quickly or continues to deteriorate necessitating a rapid evacuation of American personnel. Execution could be completed in a minimum of four days. D-DAY for this plan would be determined by your decision to evacuate. We are now at D-X. A timetable for the plan follows:

- D-DAY

- Promulgate decision to backload; notices to CTF 61, Embassy, etc. (if not already notified).
- Continue NEO operations (if required).
- Request access to Egyptian/Cypriot port and airfield facilities for offload of civilian evacuees.
- Reposition naval assets to begin movement; MAU takes necessary action for backload.
- MAU prepares and stages heavy equipment and supplies for helo lift or for boarding appropriate landing craft to return to shipping.
- Naval forces on standby to provide NGS or TACAIR to suppress hostile fire.
- MAU provides escort for Embassy evacuation to BIA.
- Embassy/ONC/dependent personnel begin to marshal at BIA for NEO (if required).
- Position strategic airlift at Larnaca or, if necessary, at Akrotiri, Cyprus (if not already positioned).

- D+1

- MAU provides security for NEO personnel assembled at BIA.

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- Commence MAU backload (if there's no interference with NEO activity).
  - Heavy equipment (sea).
  - Other (with air, if permissive environment; otherwise as landing craft available).
- NEO activities completed.
  
- D+2
  - Continue heavy equipment and supplies backload to ships.
  - Embassy staff/dependents offshore/Cyprus (NEO complete).
  - OMC personnel moved offshore.
  
- D+3
  - Continue backload of remaining MAU equipment and supplies.
  - Commence backload of MAU personnel and individual equipment.
  
- D+4
  - Complete backload.
  - All designated US personnel out of Lebanon.
  - CVBG/BB and ARG/MAU remain in Eastern Med to carry out contingency operations as tasked.

(S) I recommend you approve the Phased Redeployment Plan (Plan A) and direct us to accomplish the redeployment portion in thirty days or less. If the situation changes, we would shift to the Short Term Evacuation Plan (Plan B) on your order, since our main objective is to safeguard our Marines.

(U) If you have any questions or need any further information, please call me.

*Pop-*

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 13 Aug 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 USC § 552

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