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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Status of Habib's Negotiations (U) -- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Phil Habib's protracted negotiations are hard to track in all their implications and potential pitfalls. I have asked ISA to give an annotated listing of the basic 10-point plan that has been under negotiation now for some time (TAB A). You have probably seen the most recent cable from Tel Aviv, conveying Begin's strong objections to the arrival of the French contingent of the Multinational Force prior to the departure of the PLO (TAB B). Apparently, this question, as well as the longstanding problem of securing enough acceptances for the PLO from the recipient Arab countries, are the current stumbling blocks.

I have been concerned recently that your position (and the JCS position) on what the US forces should do, might not be sufficiently understood by Phil Habib. Hence, I have urged that we should prepare more detailed policy guidance than that contained in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Lebanese Government (with which you concurred during the breakfast with George Shultz). TAB C contains a draft of that policy guidance, on which Habib is being given an opportunity to comment. You will, of course, be reviewing a final version -- probably Monday or Tuesday. As this draft now stands, it needs a bit further work, both for clarity and for policy consideration.

Fred C. Ikle
Fred C. Ikle

Attachments
a/s

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 17 2018

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Tab C

Message to Habib in Beirut .

Subject: Policy Guidance for Contingency Planning -- Withdrawal of PLO from Lebanon (U)

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2. We are in the process of providing more specific policy guidance to the military for planning their participation as part of the MNF to assist the LAF in withdrawal of the PLO from Lebanon. This guidance is more detailed than that addressed in the draft Aide Memoire sent to Beirut on 5 August 1982.

3. Elements of the policy guidance for the military are provided below:

Policy Guidance for Lebanon Evacuation Planning

I. US Objectives. To evacuate peacefully PLO forces from Lebanon as soon as possible; to effect withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

II. Description of Situation. The PLO and the IDF have been in conflict involving major military activities in Lebanon for over fifty days. The IDF are positioned in and around Beirut and the remaining clusters of PLO forces are located in West Beirut. Cease fire agreements have been multiple, but frequently broken and the situation is tenuous requiring quick agreement and results.

III. Objectives for the Use of US Forces. To assist the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) as part of a Multinational Force (MNF) including Italian and French forces in LAF movement of agreed combatants from Beirut to countries other than Lebanon, e.g., Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.

IV. Mission. US forces will provide a military presence as part of the MNF. The LAF will provide a buffer between the IDF and PLO combatants that will allow supervision of a safe process of PLO assembly, weapons control operations, and withdrawal from Lebanon.

V. Limitations and Restrictions. Limit of US force commitment:

- For planning purposes a thirty day operation should be considered as maximum.
- US forces will not actively participate in the assembly, processing or withdrawal of PLO combatants or noncombatants. They

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will also not actively participate in the assembly, or processing of PLO weapons until such time as the weapons are under the control of the LAF. Area of operations activity is limited to monitoring transiting PLO groups, emergency medical treatment, and reporting to ICRC or LAF with respect to irregularities within the assigned sector.

- Offensive action, as a deterrent to the possible loss of a measure of self defense, will not be taken. In carrying out its mission, the American Force will not engage in combat; however, they may exercise the right of self defense.

- Initially, US operations are limited to the metropolitan Beirut and appropriate transportation nodes required to land and support the force ashore. Establishment of sectors, and other areas of operations may alter these geographical boundaries. Exceptions may be made by the local commander in consultation with the US Ambassador.

VI. Conditions under which US forces will be committed:

Regarding likely strategic warning, preparation time, and authorized pre-conflict preparations and sequencing:

- US MNF forces will receive at least 72 hours notification prior to a requirement to land the first elements of the force.

Command relationships and liaison:

- Command authority over the US MNF will be exercised exclusively by the National Command Authority through USCINCEUR. American forces will maintain close coordination with the American Ambassador to Lebanon.

- American forces will operate in close coordination with the LAF. To assure effective coordination, the American force will assign liaison officers to the LAF and vice versa.

Support which may be expected:

- The Lebanese government will provide the necessary means of transportation for the movement by land to include drivers, vehicles, and en route logistics support and security. Movement, if by road to Syria, will be along the main Beirut-Damascus highway without any intervening stops.

- If departure is by sea, Palestinian forces will go on commercial vessels arranged by the International Committee Red Cross (ICRC). The US government will provide escort for sea vessels from port to port if necessary.

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- Lebanese government will be responsible for food, medical support, etc., and any other personal needs of PLO with assistance and support of the ICRC and other relief organizations.

Other:

- Agreement by the PLO that they will leave Lebanon
- Agreement that Israel and any other forces present will not in any way interfere with the safe and secure departure of the Palestinian forces.
- Syria, Israel and PLO forces will withdraw to agreed upon positions for safety of MNF force insertion into MNF respective areas of operation (AO).
- Although the period of the operation will not exceed thirty days, the period for withdrawal of PLO forces from Beirut should not exceed two weeks.
- PLO leadership will be responsible for organization and management of assembly and departure of forces from beginning to end.
- Expect no more than 8,000 PLO forces will be required to move by both land and sea.

4. Request your comments on the guidance, particularly regarding the more difficult issues you have been addressing in the negotiations. The military planners must have as accurate and specific information as possible to plan for effective participation in the MNF.

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