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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

April 10, 1982

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TO: OVP - Mrs. Nancy Bearg Dyke
NSC - Mr. Michael O. Wheeler
DOD - Col. John Stanford
JCS - Maj. Dennis J. Stanley
CIA - Mr. Thomas B. Cormack

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 19 2019

SUBJECT: Contingency Planning for Israeli Attack on Lebanon

Attached for your review are State, CIA, and DOD assessments should Israel attack the PLO in Lebanon, geared to varying levels of Israeli action.

In our view DOD's suggestion that we apply leverage to dissuade Israel from action by threatening to hold up arms deliveries would be a dangerous course that could spin the Israelis out of control. Israel is militarily capable of sustaining action for some period without U.S. support. The stern but non-specific warnings we have repeatedly given the Israelis have so far been effective, and carry an implication of U.S. reaction should Israel cease to heed us. DOD also urges that we concurrently approach key Arab moderates to disassociate ourselves from possible Israeli action. We have already in effect done this by making clear to key moderates that we are working hard to restrain Israel. A new approach to them focusing on disassociating ourselves with possible Israeli action could be seen as washing our hands of the problem, and in any event would not absolve us of Arab blame should Israel attack.

These papers are to serve as useful guidelines but they have no official status until they are formally cleared. We would appreciate your comments by COB Monday, April 12.

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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L. Paul Bremer III
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Executive Secretary

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