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October 23, 1983

National Security  
Decision Directive 109

Responding to the Lebanon Crisis ~~(S)~~

Based upon the series of meetings completed yesterday and drawing upon the recommendations of the National Security Planning Group, the following decisions will provide policy guidance for our next steps in response to the Lebanon Crisis: ~~(S)~~

Responding to the Attacks on the USMNF Contingents

General Kelley's Mission to Beirut

- General Kelley will lead a delegation to Beirut and undertake a comprehensive review of the security of our MNF contingent. ~~(S)~~
- General Kelley will submit his recommendations to me on possible modifications to our deployment in the Beirut area and on other measures we might take to enhance security. ~~(S)~~
- General Kelley will convey to the leadership of the Lebanese Armed Forces the urgent need to tighten security in the south

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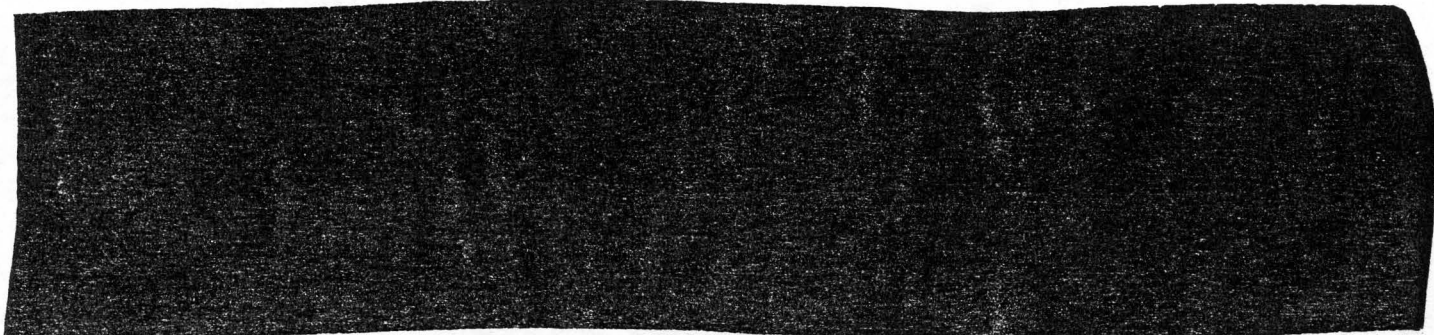
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by S. Tilley, National Security Council

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Beirut area including closer collaboration with Lebanese security agencies and those confessional militias able to assist in controlling the movement of hostile terrorist factions. ~~X~~

-- General Kelley will meet with delegations of other MNF countries that may travel to Beirut and the leadership of the MNF contingents to explore means and measures to reduce our collective exposure. ~~X~~

High-Level MNF Meeting



-- To this end, the interagency review of our Persian Gulf policy, in particular the questions of our position toward the Iraq-Iran War, should be completed early this week. ~~X~~

Lebanon Negotiations

-- The choice of a Presidential envoy for the Middle East will be made within the next several days. Thereafter, the selection of supporting staff and travel arrangements should be completed forthwith with a view to permitting an early departure for the Middle East. ~~X~~

-- Our ambassador in Beirut should schedule meetings with President Gemayel and the Lebanese government to accelerate the resolution of outstanding issues in the process of promoting national reconciliation. ~~X~~

-- He should formally request that the government of Lebanon sever all diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. ~~X~~

-- He should also undertake urgent consultations with the leaders of all the principal Lebanese factions to stress U.S. disquiet over repeated delays in arranging the national reconciliation conference. He should stress that while we are committed to the process of reconciliation, the U.S. government cannot tolerate interminable delays in the process. ~~X~~

*Ronald Reagan*

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