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Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files
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Attack on Marines in Beirut]
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PMS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT MORTON C BLACKWELL

WHITE HOUSE DC

(COPY OF TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT REAGAN)

THE TRAGEDY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE MARINES IN BEIRUT MUST STIFFEN OUR RESOLVE TO SECURE AN INDEPENDENT LEBANON. AS WE GRIEVE FOR OUR DEAD AND OFFER CONDOLENCES TO THEIR FAMILIES, WE SUPPORT YOUR ASSERTIONS THAT WE MUST NOT PERMIT POWER BY TERRORISTS IN THIS STRATEGIC AREA.

WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW IF IRAN, SYRIA OR SOME RADICAL SECT OPERATING ON ITS OWN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK, WE CAN ASSUME THAT THIS

LATEST TERRORISM WAS DESIGNED TO REMOVE AMERICAN FORCES FROM LEBANON. THE FACT THAT THE FRENCH FORCES WERE SIMILARLY ATTACKED ON THE SAME DAY UNDERSCORES THE TERRORIST GOAL OF REMOVING THE WESTERN PRESENCE IN LEBANON, OF DELAYING OR STOPPING THE RECONCILIATION TALKS ABOUT TO BEGIN IN GENEVA, AND OF REMOVING ALL CHANCES FOR THE REAPPEARANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT LEBANON. OUR MARINES' PRESENCE IS NEEDED AND NECESSARY TO HELP BRING STABILITY TO THE CHAOS OF LEBANON. THE HORRIFYING ATTACK ON OUR FORCES POINTS TO THE NECESSITY OF IMPROVING THEIR PROTECTION AND WE SUPPORT YOUR SPEEDY EFFORTS TO TAKE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION.

TO THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE USA IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF REDEFINING THE MARINES' ROLE, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW THEIR SITUATION AND THAT OF THE OTHER MULTI NATIONAL FORCES IN LEBANON. STEPS MUST BE TAKEN SO THAT OUR MARINES CANNOT ONLY BETTER PROTECT

THEMSELVES BUT ASSERT THEIR ROLE AS A PEACEKEEPING FORCE

COPY TO: MORTON C BLACKWELL

JOSEPH ZOLDAN

NATIONAL COMMANDER

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE USA

1110 EST