

February 26, 1984

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NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 128

Lebanon ~~AS~~

The situation in Lebanon is fluid. The USMNF will complete redeployment on February 26, 1984. Damascus has proposed an agreement with the GOL in which the GOL will abrogate the May 17 agreement, and in return for which Syria would support a government of national unification and would guarantee a cease fire in Lebanon. However, to date a cease fire has not occurred, and no announcement of the GOL/Syrian agreement has been made. Therefore, we should remain flexible to cope with changes in the situation as they occur. With this objective, the following decisions are approved: ~~DS~~

o Tenure of Military Training Teams (MTT)

The U.S. military personnel assigned to MTTs with the Lebanese Armed Force will not be redeployed from Lebanon at this time. (S)

o Conditions for the Delivery of U.S. Military Equipment

Military equipment ordered and paid for by the government of Lebanon will continue to be delivered so long as we can be certain the materials remain in friendly hands. No new shipments will be dispatched pending clarification of the situation. Items now en route should proceed and further guidance sought closer to the time of arrival. For as long as there is the prospect of a cooperative relationship with the GOL, deliveries will be approved. In the event that these conditions do not obtain, appropriate steps will be taken to prevent delivery and seek to compensate the appropriate Lebanese authorities for costs already incurred. ~~XX~~

o Protection of Civilian Population

It is clear that those who have assumed control of the various areas in Lebanon have responsibility for the security of the people in those areas. We must consider appropriate actions the United States would take if large-scale killing of civilians takes place. The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, is requested to develop plans for such a contingency. ~~TOP SECRET~~ Partially Declassified/Released on 5-17-

~~SECRET~~ Partially Declassified/Released on 5-17-91
under provisions of E.O. 12358-
by S. Tilley, National Security Council

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(TS)

o Rules of Engagement

The Rules of Engagement (ROE) governing the defense of the official American presence in Lebanon will remain in effect. Specifically, U.S. Naval and tactical air power will be employed to destroy sources of hostile fire directed at the American Embassy compound, the Ambassador's residence and other U.S. personnel or facilities in Lebanon. As in previous practice, fire will be returned at organizationally associated targets if response to the source of fire is precluded. In view of the sudden and proximate threat to the Ambassador's residence which would be posed by a breakthrough at Suk al Gharb, the ROE for support to the LAF at that point is reaffirmed. ~~TS~~

To permit effective and timely responses to hostile fire in the situations described above, the Secretary of Defense will ensure that adequate technical means are available so as to determine the source of hostile fire directed at American personnel in greater Beirut. ~~TS~~

o Steps to Bolster Confidence in U.S. Commitments in the Middle East

In view of the serious developments in Lebanon and the perceived erosion of U.S. credibility, we need to review on an urgent basis steps we can take to bolster confidence in U.S. commitments to Israel and our Arab friends.

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Ronald Reagan

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