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~~Middle East Situation~~
Lebanon, Israel/Lebanese
Hostilities, P72
P710

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

5 July 1982

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 142^a/82

Your Highness,

Thank you for your message about the tragic situation in Lebanon. I fully share your deep concern at recent events. Britain has been appalled by the destruction and the suffering of Lebanese and Palestinians alike. Having ourselves been the recent victims of an invasion of our sovereign territory in the Falkland Islands, we are only too aware of the importance of international law and of support for the principles of territorial integrity and self-determination.

You will have seen that the Foreign Ministers of the Ten European Community countries were quick to condemn the Israeli invasion in their statement of 9 June. Since then the Ten have been doing all they can to urge restraint on Israel and prevent further suffering. We have called for the immediate implementation of Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509 in order to prevent further casualties. We have been giving humanitarian assistance to the innocent victims of this conflict both bilaterally and through the European Community. We are suspending the signature of the second Financial Protocol with Israel and postponing a ministerial meeting of the EC/Israel Co-operation Council. We also made it clear at the European Council meeting on 29 June that Israel was not receiving any arms supplies from the Ten. The Israeli Government cannot be in any doubt as to the strength of our feeling.

/ We in Britain

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We in Britain are keeping in close contact with the US Government who are fully aware of our views. We have underlined to them the importance of finding a solution to the Palestinian problem if the causes of conflict in the Middle East are to be eradicated. We seek peace and justice for all peoples in the region.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Highness Shaikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayyan, GCMG.