

OPS
DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL

T 129A/82

Subject
~~Lebanon~~
Israel/Lebanese
Hostilities

Thank you for the message which your Ambassador passed to me on 13 June. I too am appalled at the loss of life and the scale of human suffering, particularly amongst the civilian population. This has been graphically illustrated in television reports from Lebanon, which have caused widespread indignation in this country. I have the greatest sympathy with Lebanon's plight, and fully share your concern that the waste of human life must be stopped forthwith.

There can be no justification for Israel's action. As you will have seen, we and our European Community partners issued a strong statement on 9 June, vigorously condemning the Israeli invasions. We called on Israel to withdraw its forces immediately and unconditionally from the Lebanon in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509 and made clear that should Israel continue to refuse compliance with these resolutions, the Ten would examine the possibilities for future action. The Ten are now urgently considering the situation again.

We have been active in pressing the Israelis to allow the International Relief agencies to operate to fullest effect throughout the areas affected by the war. We have remained in close touch with the United Nations. I shall be seeing Mr Perez de Cuellar in New York on 16 June and shall discuss with him how best the United Nations can contribute to restoring the peace and easing the suffering in Lebanon. The Community have agreed to contribute funds to the international relief effort and in addition the British Government have made clear to the Lebanese Government that if they have particular requests for humanitarian aid, we will do our best to respond.

The task of building a just and lasting peace both in Lebanon and the region as a whole is increasingly urgent. The Palestine problem must find a solution. The first priority must be to secure the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon in compliance with the Security Council Resolutions. The Americans have a crucial role

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in this. I emphasised the importance of Israeli withdrawal to
President Reagan in London last week and am^{now} making further urgent
representations to him.

We must remain in close touch about this very serious situation.

A handwritten signature or set of initials in dark ink, appearing to be 'MF' or similar, located in the center-right of the page.