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FM BEIRUT 061105Z APR 81

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 88 OF 06 APRIL 1981

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 63/81

LEBANON FIGHTING: PLO POSITION.

1. AN ASSISTANT TO YASSER ARAFAT HAS DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WHICH ARAFAT ASKED SHOULD BE SENT TO YOU AND THE PRIME MINISTER.

BEGINS:

IN SPITE OF HEAVY BOMBARDMENT TO WHICH OUR CAMPS IN BEIRUT WERE SUBMITTED, OUR TROOPS HAVE NOT RETALIATED AT ALL. WE HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND THE HOSPITALS OF BERBIR, GAZA, AKKA BEIRUT HOSPITAL AND A U H ARE FULL OF OUR WOUNDED.

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT WE AS PLO ARE INVOLVED AND HAVE INTERFERED IN THE CURRENT FIGHTING. WE HAVE EXERTED ENORMOUS PRESSURE ON OUR MILITANTS SO THAT THEY DO NOT RETALIATE, THIS IN SPITE OF CONSIDERABLE LOSSES ON OUR SIDE.

CONCERNING THE SO-CALLED PLA THAT IS SPOKEN OF, IT IS IN FACT PALESTINIAN UNITS UNDER SYRIAN COMMAND RECRUITED THROUGH A SYRIAN LAW CONCERNING OBLIGATORY MILITARY SERVICE. THEY ARE IN NO WAY RELATED TO US AND THEY CONSTITUTE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ADF. THEY ARE NOW IN THE POSITIONS IN WHICH PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS GIVEN HIS APPROVAL 2 YEARS AGO.

THIS IS WHY WE ARE SURPRISED AND INDIGNANT AT THE CAMPAIGN OF MISLEADING LIES TRYING TO INVOLVE US IN THE FIGHTING WHICH IS TAKING PLACE, AND WE ARE INDIGNANT AT THE SELECTIVE SENSIBILITY WHICH REMAINS INDIFFERENT TO THE GENOCIDE TO WHICH WE ARE SUBJECTED IN SOUTH LEBANON, WHERE DAILY LEBANESE VILLAGES AND TOWNS AND PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS ARE TARGETS FOR SHELLING BY AIR, SEA AND LAND, PROVOKING CONSIDERABLE HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES.

WE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE NUMEROUS STATEMENTS ISSUED BY ISRAELI MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS CONCERNING THEIR STATE TERRORISM AND WHAT THEY CONSIDER AS LEGITIMATE PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES BEHIND THEIR BORDERS.

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July 1979