

~~TOP SECRET~~

His Excellency Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America

I deem it essential to turn to you in connection with the very dangerous situation in Lebanon and its vicinity. Israel is continuing large scale aggression against a sovereign country, a member of the UN. Blood is being shed, thousands of people are tragically perishing, the peaceful population of the country -- Lebanese, Palestinians -- are experiencing unbelievable suffering.

In essence, Israel is pursuing a regular war against Lebanon. Israel began this war with an act unprecedented in its impudence and contempt for the norms of the international community: its troops have crossed the lines of the armed forces of the UN, by this act demonstratively trampling the flag of this organization. Israel continues and intensifies its aggression, despite the unanimously adopted resolution of the Security Council demanding the termination of military actions and the immediate and unconditional removal of Israeli troops from the territory of Lebanon.

In this manner there has been created an intolerable and most dangerous situation.

The Israeli assault places in doubt the fate of Lebanon as an independent and unitary state. The actions of Israel which directly threaten the security of other Arab states are pregnant with (the possibility) of a further spread of the crisis situation,

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the broadening of the military conflict and the involvement in it of other countries. This is a fact which no one can escape.

The situation which has arisen in this region demands the adoption without delay of measures to carry into practice the resolution of the Security Council. It is the duty of states, and, above all, of the permanent members of the Security Council, effectively to apply themselves to this task. Israel must know that it cannot count on anyone's tolerance and support.

I turn to you Mr. President in view of the well-known fact that the United States has at its disposal major possibilities of influencing Israel. This, of course, places on the United States a particular responsibility for the termination of aggression against Lebanon and the removal of Israeli troops from its territory.

In connection with the events in Lebanon and its vicinity I must state: The Soviet Union watches with utmost attention developments of the situation in this region which is located in the immediate proximity of our southern borders and where we have no shortage of friends. You will understand me correctly, Mr. President, if you proceed on the assumption that the Soviet Union will act in accordance with this and be guided by the interests of Soviet and international security.

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It cannot be denied that unless the war of Israel against Lebanon and the UN is immediately stopped the consequences may prove unpredictable. We expect the United States to undertake active steps to have Israel without delay stop its aggression and fulfill the decision of the Security Council.

Leonid Brezhnev

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HIS EXCELLENCY
LEONID IL'ICH BREZHNEV
CHAIRMAN, PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME
SOVIET OF THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

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BY Inf, NARA, DATE 10/4/00

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE CAREFULLY STUDIED YOUR MESSAGE OF JUNE 9 ON THE
SITUATION IN LEBANON.

WE ARE AS CONCERNED AS YOU ARE AT DEVELOPMENTS THERE, AND
I AGREE THAT THE SITUATION IS GRAVE. OUR POSITION IS CLEAR.
LIKE THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNITED STATES VOTED FOR UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 508 AND 509.

IN THAT REGARD, I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THERE HAS BEEN
A MAJOR ESCALATION IN THE FIGHTING BETWEEN ISRAELI AND SYRIAN
FORCES. I HAVE, THEREFORE, CALLED ON THE PARTIES TO AGREE TO
A CEASEFIRE TO TAKE EFFECT AT 6:00 A.M. LOCAL (LEBANESE) TIME,
JUNE 10. I URGE YOU TO USE YOUR STRONG INFLUENCE ON SYRIA, AS I
AM USING MY INFLUENCE IN ISRAEL, TO BRING ABOUT IMMEDIATE
ACCEPTANCE OF THAT PROPOSAL. =

AMBASSADOR HABIB, DURING EARLIER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL THAT IN THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES:

- HOSTILITIES MUST CEASE FORTHWITH,
- EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO AVOID ESCALATING THE CURRENT HOSTILITIES AND WIDENING THE CONFLICT,
- ISRAELI FORCES MUST BE WITHDRAWN FROM LEBANON,
- THE UNILATERAL USE OF FORCE TO CHANGE THE SITUATION IN THE AREA IS UNACCEPTABLE.

BUT IT IS ALSO CLEAR, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT ISRAEL IS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT A RESTORATION OF THE PREVIOUS PATTERN OF AGGRESSION AGAINST ITS NORTHERN TERRITORIES -- AN OBJECTIVE THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND AND WITH WHICH WE SYMPATHIZE. =

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AS YOU MAY KNOW, AMBASSADOR HABIB IS NOW IN DAMASCUS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SYRIAN LEADERS TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION AND URGE RESTRAINT AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF MY PROPOSAL FOR A CEASEFIRE.

AT THE SAME TIME, MR. PRESIDENT, I AM COMPELLED TO POINT OUT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT BEARS NO LITTLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY ITS FAILURE TO SUPPORT THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AND ITS READINESS TO FURNISH A STEADY SUPPLY OF WEAPONS TO PLO FORCES IN LEBANON. WHILE WE USE OUR INFLENCE TO RESTRAIN ISRAEL, WE EXPECT YOUR GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE ITS INFLUENCE OVER THE PLO, SYRIA AND YOUR OTHER FRIENDS IN THE AREA IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

RONALD REAGAN +

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