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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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March 18, 1983

NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING GROUP MEETING

DATE: Friday, March 18, 1983

LOCATION: The Situation Room

TIME: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

FROM: William P. Clark *WPC*

I. PURPOSE

- A) To review the INF Negotiations (1:00 - 2:00 p.m.)
- B) To review and approve instructions for next steps in the Israel-Lebanon negotiations (2:00 - 2:30 p.m.)

II. BACKGROUND

A) INF Negotiations (see separate paper).

B) Lebanon. The fundamental problem we face in persuading Israel to withdraw from Lebanon stems from Israel's conviction that the Lebanese security services are not by themselves capable of securing the southern zone. The Lebanese insist that their forces are capable and motivated, and will therefore provide Israel with security. They have nonetheless asked for MNF assistance in this regard.

As a result of George's meetings with Shamir and Salem, where Israel presented a six-point proposal involving a residual IDF presence, State developed counter-proposals which were presented to the Israelis and Lebanese as a non-paper (at Tab B).

The most innovative measures proposed are [REDACTED]

Both Shamir and Salem found some of the ideas interesting, but are sure to encounter difficulties with elements in their respective governments. For instance, the Israelis continue to hold out to keep Haddad as the commander in the south. The ideas in the non-paper may be enough for Phil Habib to bridge the gap over security arrangements.

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On the other hand, the Israeli Cabinet may not be satisfied, leading to another negotiating impasse. In order to break such an impasse, Habib should be authorized to propose the direct involvement of U.S. forces into the arrangements for the security zone. This would be in keeping with your public statements that we will do what is required to protect Israel's northern border.

I understand that the JCS have prepared an imaginative fall-back option which should meet Israeli concerns for the security of the south. It emphasizes specialized capabilities to surveil the zone and train the Lebanese brigade with which we could operate. In addition to improving Lebanese capabilities, these forces would deter terrorist threats. This would also set a useful example for the other MNF units deployed in the north and east.

It is important that you listen to the discussion, but state quite firmly your instructions that Habib be prepared to offer the MNF option if the negotiations reach an impasse. Talking Points and a 3x5 card are provided at Tab A.

III. PARTICIPANTS

To be provided.

IV. PRESS PLAN

None.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

See Agenda at Tab C.

Attachments:

Tab A Talking Points and 3x5 card  
Tab B Non-Paper in Cable Form  
Tab C Agenda

Prepared By:  
Geoffrey Kemp  
Howard J. Teicher  
Philip Dur

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TALKING POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT

- AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE ISRAELIS SHOULD HAVE GIVEN US A TENTATIVE ANSWER TO OUR NON-PAPER. IF, AS NOW APPEARS LIKELY, THEY RAISE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS AND THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT AN IMPASSE, I WANT YOU, PHIL, TO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE USE OF SMALL U.S. SPECIALIZED FORCES IN THE SOUTH.
  
- I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE THIS OFFER. FIRST, THE LEBANESE HAVE ASKED US TO. SECOND, IN THE EVENT THAT ISRAEL STILL RAISES OBJECTIONS, WE CAN SHOW THAT WE HAVE TRULY GONE THE EXTRA MILE. THIS WOULD BE ESSENTIAL IF WE EVER HAVE TO RECONSIDER OUR WHOLE POLICY.
  
- A SPECIALIZED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WOULD PERMIT US TO TRAIN THE LEBANESE AND SET THE EXAMPLE FOR OTHER MNF CONTRIBUTORS.
  
- I KNOW THERE ARE OBJECTIONS TO THE USE OF U.S. FORCES IN THE SOUTH, BUT WHAT IS AT STAKE HERE IS OUR OVERALL MIDDLE EAST POLICY. WE MUST GET THE ISRAELIS OUT OF LEBANON, YET, WE MUST ENSURE THEIR SECURITY NEEDS HAVE BEEN MET. I DON'T SEE HOW THEY COULD REFUSE OUR OFFER IF THEIR ONLY MOTIVE IS SECURITY.

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BY KML NARA DATE 7/15/10