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SYSTEM II
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PRESIDENT'S TALKING POINTS FOR
SUMMARY OF THE NSPG MEETING

- THE PROBLEMS WE CONFRONT SEEM ALMOST AS DIFFICULT AS THOSE WE FACED A YEAR AGO. EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR THE OTHER GUY TO YIELD BEFORE HE MOVES. WE MUST GET MORE CONTROL OF EVENTS AND SOON.
 - TIME IS ERODING THE MUTUAL TRUST WHICH UNDERLIES AGREEMENT.
 - TIME IS DESTROYING LEBANESE CONSENSUS.
 - TIME SERVES THE SOVIETS AND RADICALS AND INCREASES THE RISK OF AN "ACCIDENTAL" CONFLICT.

- ISRAELIS HAVE GOOD REASON TO BEGIN LEAVING -- LOTS OF PRESSURE AT HOME.

- LEBANESE ALSO HAVE GOOD REASON TO STICK TO FULL WITHDRAWAL AS A GOAL. I UNDERSTAND WHY THEY DON'T WANT TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT UNLESS ISRAELIS AGREE TO LINK PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL TO FULL WITHDRAWAL. WE HAVE TO SUPPORT THEM ON THIS.

- OUR OVERRIDING CONCERN FOR THE MOMENT IS TO PROTECT LEBANON AND KEEP THE CONSENSUS FROM UNRAVELING COMPLETELY. LET'S DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SHOW ALL THE LEBANESE FACTIONS THAT WE SUPPORT THE GEMAYEL GOVERNMENT AND THE RESTORATION OF ITS AUTHORITY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

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NLS F98-018/1 # 60
By LDJ, NARA, Date 4/27/06

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- IF GEMAYEL NEEDS OUR DIPLOMATIC SKILLS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WHATEVER, WE SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE.

- AS TO THE MNF, WE SHOULD INDICATE OUR READINESS, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHERS, TO HELP THE LEBANESE ARMY. I WOULD LIKE TO ANTICIPATE WHAT PRESIDENT GEMAYEL WILL ASK OF ME NEXT WEEK AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION WHICH IS CAUTIOUS BUT RESPONSIVE TO WHAT HE THINKS HE NEEDS.

- FINALLY, AND WE SAY THIS AFTER EACH MEETING WE HAVE ON LEBANON, WE NEED A BROADER PLAN OF ACTION TO LINK WHAT WE DO IN LEBANON WITH PROGRESS ON THE MORE GENERAL PROBLEM OF PEACE. HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THE SYRIANS? THEY MUST HAVE VULNERABILITIES. WHAT CAN WE DO IN LEBANON WHICH GIVES SOME HOPE TO THE PALESTINIANS AND TO JORDAN THAT WE HAVEN'T ABANDONED THE AGENDA WE ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I'D LIKE YOU TO COME UP WITH A STRATEGY FOR MOVING US FORWARD. I WANT IT TO BE BOLD, IMAGINATIVE, AND PRACTICAL. AND, I WANT IT SOON.

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TALKING POINTS FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

(NSPG MEETING)

INTRODUCTION

-- MEETING IS TIMELY WITH WORKING VISIT NEXT WEEK OF PRESIDENT GEMAYEL. NEED TO REVIEW QUESTION OF ISRAELI PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL AND WHERE WE GO FROM HERE ON THE BROADER ISSUES OF TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND THE PEACE PROCESS.

-- INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE ISRAELI HAVE DECIDED ON A PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL TO THE AWWALI RIVER AND THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO REDEPLOY SOON.

-- ISRAELIS CLEARLY WANT TO BRING AGREEMENT INTO FORCE, WITH MODIFICATION BEFORE THEY BEGIN WITHDRAWAL.

-- LEBANESE EQUALLY DETERMINED NOT TO BRING AGREEMENT INTO FORCE UNLESS PARTIAL REDEPLOYMENT IS LINKED TO A PLAN FOR FULL WITHDRAWAL. LEBANESE ARE NOT KEEN ON PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL IN ANY EVENT.

-- I THINK IT WILL BE USEFUL IF WE BEGIN BY REVIEWING THE PERTINENT INTELLIGENCE AND THEN OUR OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH THE PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL PROBLEM.

-- BILL CASEY

-- GEORGE WOULD YOU REVIEW THE PROBLEM WE FACE WITH THE ISRAELIS AND LEBANESE. I THINK YOU ALSO WANT TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE BROADER PROBLEMS WE FACE IN DEVELOPING A NEW APPROACH.

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BY LOT, NARA, DATE 4/27/06

-- CAP, JACK WOULD YOU DISCUSS THE FACTORS BEARING ON THE MNF AND ITS POSSIBLE ROLE.

ISSUES FOR DECISION

WE REALLY HAVE AT LEAST TWO VERY TOUGH ISSUES BEFORE US:

- o WHAT DO WE DO WITH AN ISRAELI REQUEST FOR OUR INTERCESSION WITH THE GOL TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT, ABSENT A PLAN FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL. (e.g., DO WE ASK THE ISRAELIS TO POSTPONE THEIR PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL?)
- o IF THE ISRAELIS DECIDE TO BEGIN MOVING, WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP AVERT FACTIONAL STRIFE AND PROMOTE THE GOVERNMENT'S CAUSE.

MR. PRESIDENT.