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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*Lebanon*

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SITUATION ROOM NOTE

June 19, 1984

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Khaddam Visit to Beirut

The Lebanese media today loudly proclaimed Syrian vice president Khaddam's visit to Lebanon a success. Reportedly, Khaddam was able to meet with President Gemayel, Prime Minister Karami, and the factional leaders represented in the cabinet to hammer out an agreement on the distribution of key posts in the army and the use of the army to enforce security throughout Beirut.

- o While both Khaddam and Karami refused to comment on the agreement, the local press is reporting that key posts in the army and security service will be divided equitably among all groups, and with no group having veto over those proposed by other factions.
- o Also, the security plan for Beirut will be implemented simultaneously in all parts of greater Beirut -- but not in the mountains -- and calls for the collection of arms and the reopening of roads, the port, and the airport.

Embassy Beirut comments that, if in fact this agreement holds up, it will represent a major step forward and be a real victory for Gemayel. It is also important evidence of how much the Syrians want calm in Beirut. Karami states that he will announce details of the agreement during the weekly cabinet meeting tomorrow which will reportedly finally take decisions on and implement all of the points in the plan.

- o Apparently somewhat skeptical, Ambassador Bartholomew concludes with a remark that we will have to wait until tomorrow's meeting to see how well the agreement holds up.

Meanwhile, Syrian press reported Khaddam's visit in an up-beat, yet restrained way with the headlines stating that some agreements had been reached. Editorial comment was also restrained, with one paper noting that the Lebanese problem is the responsibility of all Lebanese. (C)

Beirut 5620, PSN 46712; Damascus 4074, PSN 46995

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