



~~SECRET~~

SYSTEM II  
90759

# Department of State

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INCOMING

RCM HAS SEEN

PAGE 02 OF 03 BEIRUT 04028 080853Z  
ACTION NODS-00

C19/19 006582 NOD546

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 /000 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3909

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PTER, EAIR, LE  
SUBJECT: CLOSING BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REF: BEIRUT 4022

1. ~~S~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ELIE SALIM CALLED ME 0930 LOCAL JULY 8. HE SAID HE HAD TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENT GEMAYEL "IN DETAIL" THE DEMARCHE I MADE ON BIA AND HIS RESPONSE (REFTEL). GEMAYEL CONFIRMED THAT WHAT SALIM SAID REPRESENTED HIS POSITION AS WELL.

3. I ASKED SALIM IF I COULD TAKE IT THAT I HAVE A GOL ANSWER TO MY DEMARCHE. SALIM REPLIED YES, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID THAT THE POSITION HE, SALIM, HAD TAKEN WAS HIS POSITION. THE PRESIDENT KNEW I WAS READY TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER WITH HIM AND DOES NOT THINK IT IS NECESSARY.

4. COMMENT: I AM NOT SURE WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT GEMAYEL HAS OR WILL TAKE THIS UP WITH ANYONE ELSE

BY

*C/S*  
NARA DATE 2/6/03

NLS

DECLASSIFIED

197-1091 #127

NODS-00



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*Department of State*

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IN THE GOVERNMENT. THAT SAID, WE HAVE THE ANSWER  
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO OUR DEMARCHE,  
AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY OF HIS  
GOVERNMENTAL COLLEAGUES, LEAST OF ALL THE MUSLIM  
MEMBERS, WOULD RESPOND ANY DIFFERENTLY. IF AND WHEN  
OUR DEMARCHE BECOMES KNOWN, WE CAN EXPECT A GENERAL  
OUTCRY HERE GOING WELL BEYOND THE REACTION TO THE  
MEASURES WE ANNOUNCED FOR CLOSING BIA. END COMMENT.  
BARTHOLOMEW

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