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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS, FRQ, CDZ

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Date

6/26/96

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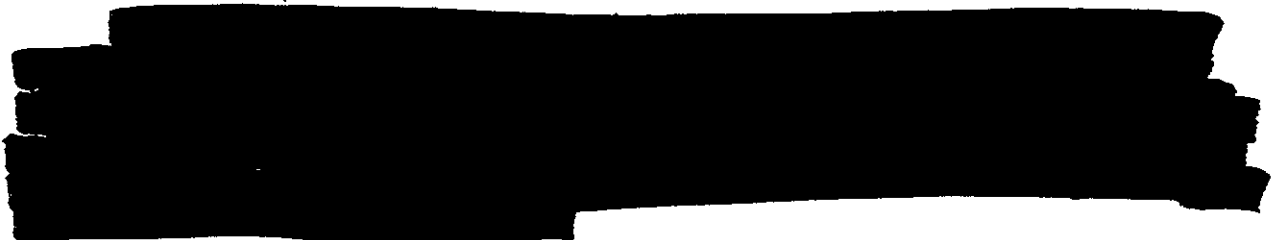
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EXCISE

DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY--APPROXIMATE TIMETABLE



A maximum U.S. diplomatic effort between now and November 19 will set stage for your meeting with Begin. If Israel and Lebanon have not made substantial progress toward agreed withdrawal and security measures at that point, we will need to press our own views. The Begin visit can be a fulcrum to move the Israelis to withdraw in return for practical assurances regarding the security of their northern border. We need to show Begin major progress with Lebanese, PLO and Syrians.

Our working deadlines, some of which will necessarily change as negotiations proceed, are as follows:

By November 8:

- Conclude initial consultations with the Lebanese, French, Italians and Israelis about possible additional MNF participants. A short list of countries to approach first has already been developed.
- Lebanese should have contacted possible participants. We will follow-up with letters to their Foreign Ministers and call in their Ambassadors in Washington.
- The GOL will have established a commission to negotiate with the Israelis on southern Lebanon security arrangements.
- Draper has shuttled between Beirut and Jerusalem to establish modalities for direct Israeli-Lebanese talks.
- Draper has probed for maximum Lebanese flexibility in both security and normalization areas. What does GOL think it can offer as inducement to Israel?
- Draper to have visited Damascus and Riyadh prior to November 8. Mission: Develop Syrian flexibility and Syrian/Saudi support for Lebanese Government's objectives.

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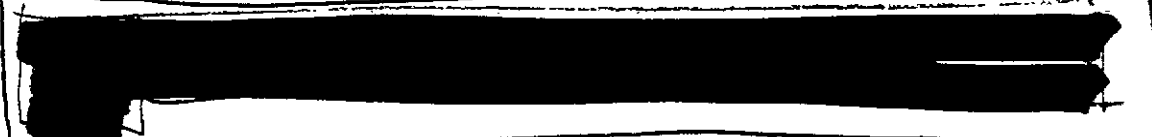
- The Lebanese have followed up their initial contacts with the PLO and the Syrians. Draper has urged Lebanese to engage both PLO and Syria in serious negotiations.
- Gemayel has been to Rabat and may visit other Arab capitals to enlist support. We have urged moderate Arabs to be helpful and have conditioned the Israelis to accept Gemayel's need to strengthen his Arab base.
- PLO is positioning itself to seek Lebanese guarantees for Palestinian civilians in return for PLO withdrawal. We have told Lebanese this will be natural quid pro quo.

November 8:

- Direct Lebanese-Israeli talks begin. We are full partner, pushing both sides to expedite substantive discussion.

By November 19:

- We are ready to use existing MNF in Beirut, augmented by additional personnel, to deploy along Damascus-Beirut Highway in support of a simultaneous Israeli-Syrian pullback. Liaison with French and Italians is at advanced and detailed stage.
- Active U.S. diplomacy has expedited Lebanon's negotiations with Israelis, Syrians and PLO.
- U.S. has advanced final proposals on compromises between Lebanon and Israel regarding security arrangements.

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- Efforts to find destinations for PLO fighters are well advanced.



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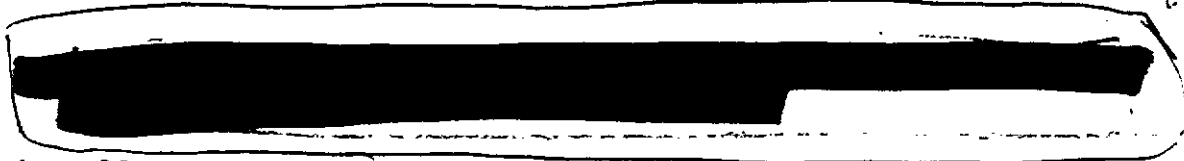
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November 19:

- You will meet with Begin. If Israeli-Lebanese talks are stalled, he must hear from you how and when we expect the Israeli occupation of Lebanon to end.
- Begin must understand we are prepared to publicly state our views of the obstacles to agreement.

By November 26:

- Syrian-Israeli disengagement should have begun.
- PLO departures should have begun.

By December 3:

- Additional MNF contributors will be needed to demonstrate to all parties that adequate international peacekeeping forces will be available. U.S. leadership, including readiness to increase size of our contingent, will be essential.
- Lebanese should have reached agreements with Israelis on practical security arrangements for southern Lebanon. We are full partners in negotiating process and must be prepared to press Israel to accept reasonable measures.
- UNIFIL will be a part of the interim security arrangements in southern Lebanon, although probably deployed to the north of its present area of operation. We will have started work with Secretariat and contributors to assure a new mandate consistent with an Israeli-Lebanese agreement.



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- Simultaneously, we will try to persuade the Arabs to go along with Lebanese concessions on security or normalization measures which may be necessary to bring about final Israeli agreement.
- Be ready to advance our final compromise proposal on normalization.
- Be prepared to publicly state our view of fair Israeli-Lebanese agreement and to lobby U.S. public and other governments for support.

By December 10

- Draper will have shuttled between Beirut, Damascus and Jerusalem to establish clear framework for withdrawals.
- Once Israel makes firm withdrawal commitment, we will focus on the timing of PLO and Syrian withdrawals, using lever of Arab desire to get Israelis out on schedule.

By December 15:

- Final withdrawals of all foreign forces should begin on staged basis.
- Lebanese army and police, UNIFIL and MNF will be ready to move to mutually agreed position.

By December 31:

- Final withdrawals have taken place.
- Lebanese, backed by international peacekeeping forces, will be in control of all Lebanese territory.

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