



DATE

11 May '68

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO: C/NESA/AI

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

REMARKS:

FROM: NESA/AI/L

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

EXTENSION

25X1
25X1

Talking Points for DCI Meeting with NSC Principals

12 May 1988

Shia Militia Fighting in West Beirut: Advantage Hizballah?

The pro-Iranian Shia militia, Hizballah, is winning in intense streetfighting with its pro-Syrian Shia rival, Amal, in West Beirut. The clashes are undercutting Amal's recent victory over Hizballah in southern Lebanon, and may force Amal to send more troops from there to Beirut. Syrian officials in Beirut claim that Damascus is ready to intervene to restore order. [redacted]

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The fighting--marked by numerous short-lived ceasefires--has favored Hizballah. If the current trend continues, Hizballah's gains could force the Syrians to move to control the southern suburbs.

--The fighting shows no sign of abating, and Hizballah has repulsed several Amal attempts to regain lost territory.

--Amal reportedly is moving fighters from south Lebanon to West Beirut. [redacted]

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The Syrian Angle--Critical

The Syrians want to prevent the confrontation from spreading to the Syrian-occupied Bekaa Valley, but will use their own military forces only as a last resort, in our view. Nevertheless, press statements from senior Syrian officials indicate that Syria is ready to restore order in West Beirut.

--In February 1987 the Syrians did intervene to prevent Amal's defeat by West Beirut militias in widespread streetfighting. [redacted]

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Syria has several thousand soldiers already in West Beirut, and many more located nearby. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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The entry of Syrian forces into the southern suburbs would have important consequences.

--A crackdown against Hizballah would exacerbate frictions in Syrian-Iranian relations.

--We believe that the Western hostages are still in the southern suburbs, and will be increasingly at risk if the clashes escalate or Syria intervenes. [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]
25X1

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Shia Militia Fighting in West Beirut: Advantage
Hizballah?

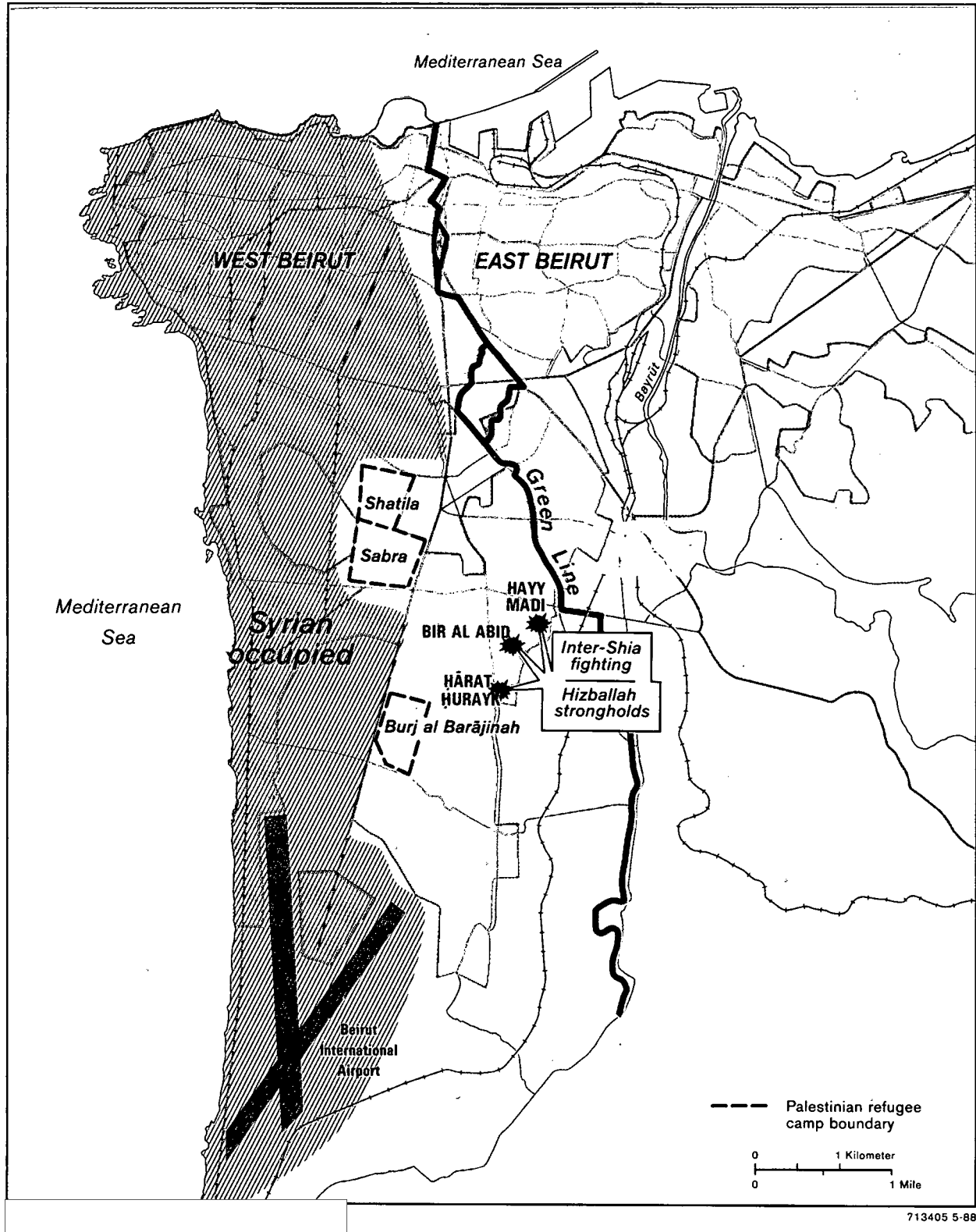
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- 1 - NESA/AI/L/Chrono
- 1 - NESA/AI/L, [REDACTED]

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DI/NESA/AI/L, [REDACTED] 11 May 88

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