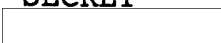


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Talking Points for the DDCI  
(31 August 1983)

Lebanon Situation Update

The Lebanese Army counteroffensive against the Druze and Muslim militias to reestablish government control of West Beirut is continuing. According to press and Embassy reports, fighting is heavy in several sectors of West Beirut.

- The Army announced that sources of fire will be dealt with severely. A total curfew has been imposed, and the Army has threatened to shoot violators on sight.
- US Embassy Beirut reports that, as of 1000 local, the initiative and momentum in the western half of the city had shifted from the militias to the Lebanese Army. The situation, however, remains fluid.

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As of 1200 local, most US Embassy personnel were beseiged in West Beirut. Shells were impacting in very close proximity to the Embassy, the Duraford Building, and the Cadmos Hotel, limiting the ability of our personnel to monitor the fighting.

- Between 1230 and 1346 local, Embassy personnel were forced to close down their communication center. The center reopened, however, following a Lebanese Army sweep of the area.

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The US Marine positions south of the city come under fire periodically. No additional Marine casualties were reported today.

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- The French, British, and Italian contingents of the Multinational Force have also been subjected to small arms and mortar fire, causing some light casualties.

Fighting also erupted in Tripoli this morning. Arranged ceasefires have not been observed.

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President Gemayel today called for a national unity dialogue with Lebanon's key confessional leaders.

- As of 1230 EDT, there has been no direct response to Amin's call.
- The Army counteroffensive has further alienated Shia Amal leader Nabih Barri and Druze leader Walid Junblatt.
- A dialogue without these two leaders would be meaningless.

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FYI: The US Carrier Task Force today shelled suspected Druze artillery positions east of Beirut. It also transferred 500,000 rounds of ammunition to the Lebanese Army through the port of Juniyah. 

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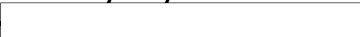
SUBJECT: Talking Points for DDCI  
LEBANON: Situation Update

NESA M#83-10207C

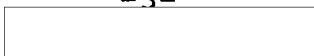


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