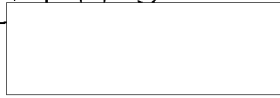




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Friday
17 September 1982

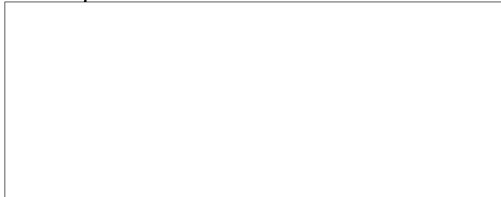
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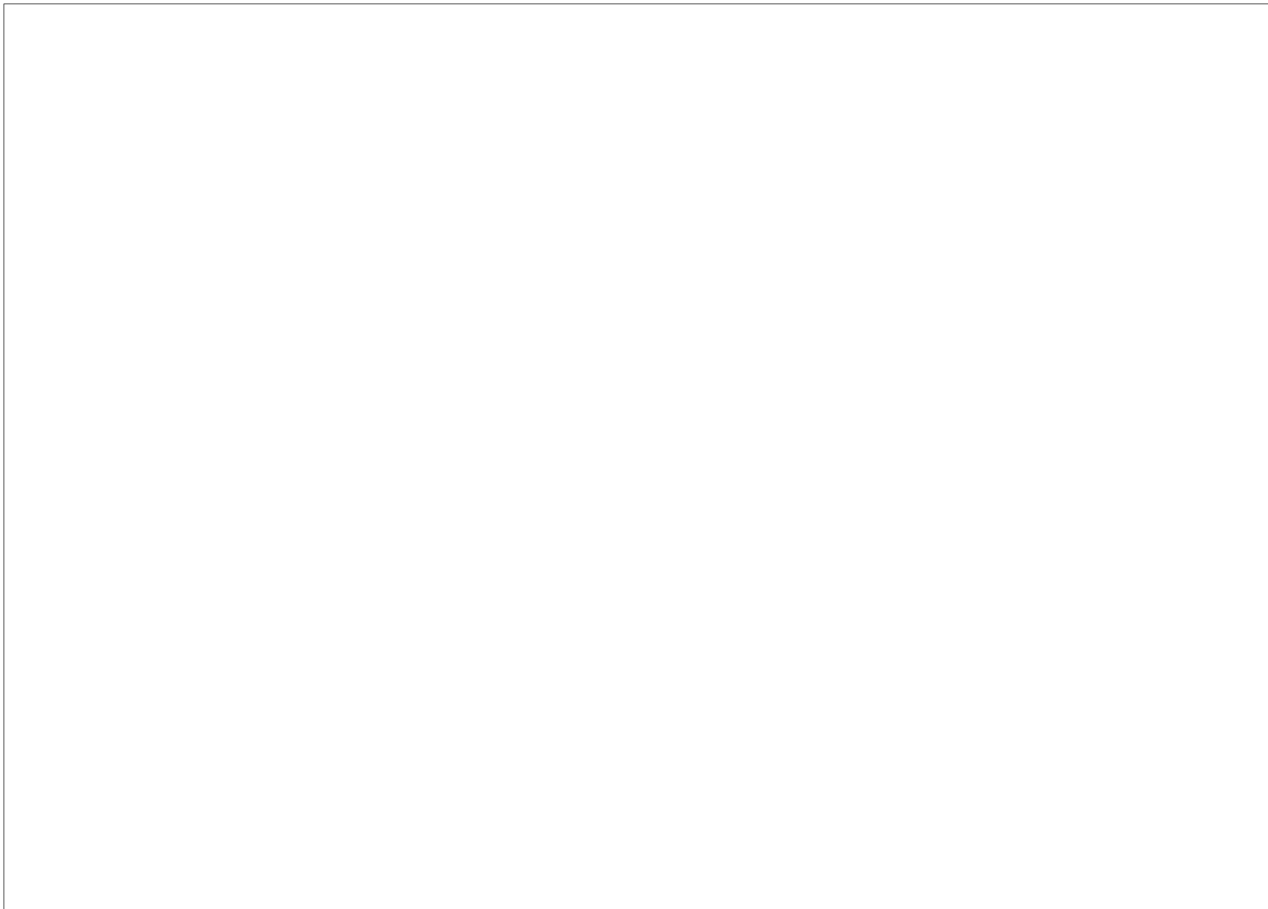
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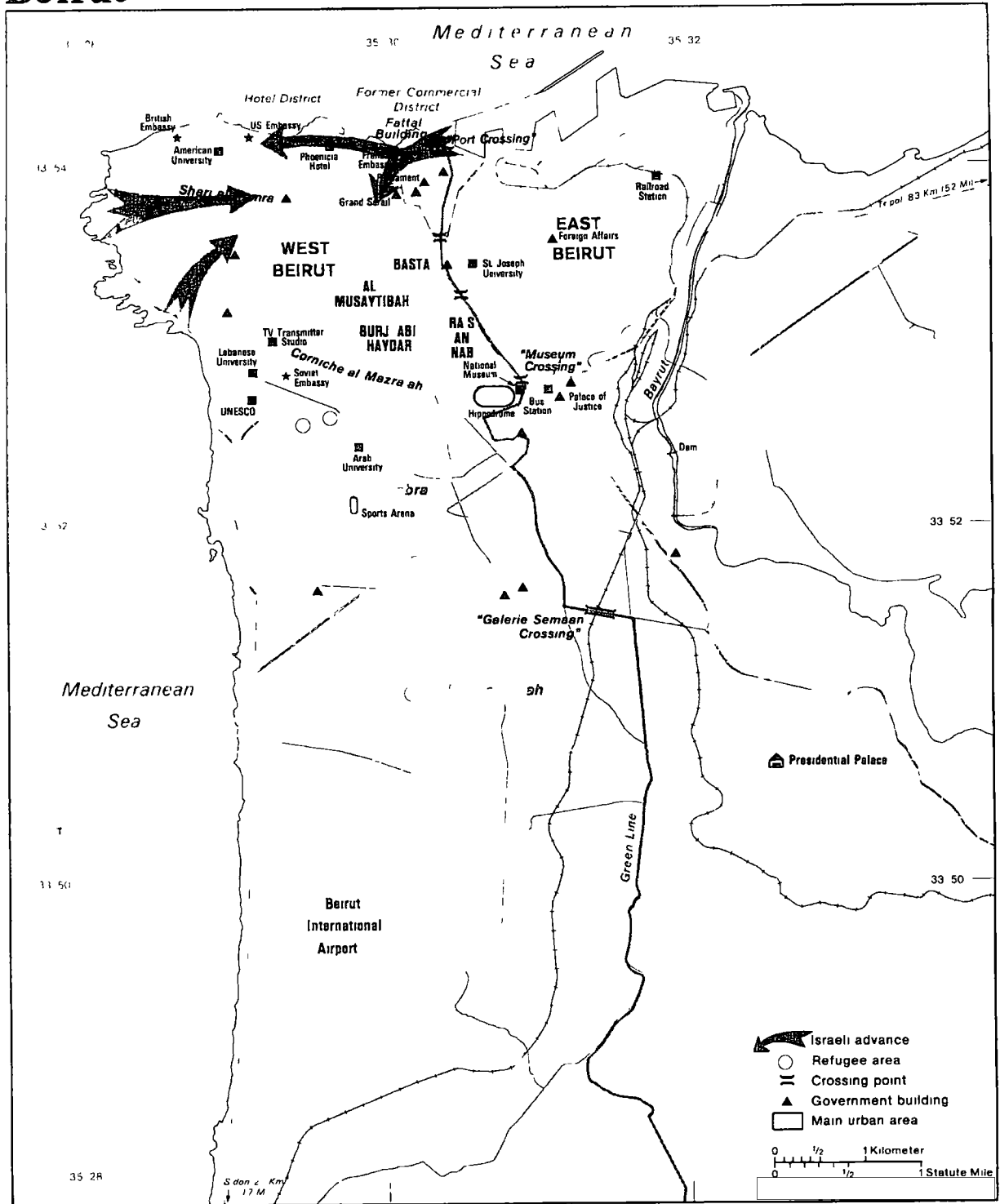


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ISRAEL-LEBANON: Israelis Pursue Militias

(Information as of 0030)

1
1 1/2 Israeli forces have surrounded West Beirut while leftists are preparing for a final defense. The Israeli cabinet says its forces will pull out only when the Lebanese Army is ready to take over. The Lebanese have called for a UN Security Council meeting and say the US must share responsibility for Israel's action.

(b)(3)

1 1/2 Israeli troops have not yet eliminated all pockets of resistance. Heavy fighting continues between the leftist militias and Israeli units advancing east along Shari al Hamra and south from the Port area.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

1 1/2 the leftists have concentrated to fight a "final battle" in the Burj Abi Haydar, Ras An Nab, Basta, and al Musaytibah neighborhoods.

(b)(3)

3
4 Comment: The Israelis intend to disarm the militias and recover the heavy weapons turned over to them by the PLO. Several smaller militias have stopped fighting, but the Murabitun, the largest and most heavily armed group, probably will continue to offer stiff resistance for at least another day. Israeli armor and elite paratroop units eventually will overwhelm them.

(b)(3)

4
5 Israel claims to have suffered two dead and 42 wounded in the fighting, but these figures were released before yesterday's heavy fighting in the city. Israeli casualties probably will be much heavier before West Beirut is secured.

(b)(3)

3
4 Israeli radio has announced the Phalange, not the Israelis, will "purge" the refugee camps. The search for weapons, ammunition caches, and PLO stay-behinds before the Israelis withdraw would be contrary to US assurances given the Lebanese Government and through them to the Palestinians that the camps would be kept safe, and it could provoke large-scale PLO terrorism elsewhere.

(b)(3)

Israeli Cabinet Meeting

6
7 The Israeli cabinet met last night and said that the Army will withdraw from West Beirut only when the Lebanese Army is ready to assume positions there.

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6
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1
Comment: Some ministers wanted to use the meeting to complain that Defense Minister Sharon and Prime Minister Begin had authorized the move without proper consultation. Concern over strains in US-Israeli relations and the fact that several ministers are out of the country apparently muted the criticism. The decision is likely to remain controversial, however, and will be used by the opposition Labor party to underscore complaints that Begin has allowed Israel to be drawn into a quagmire.

(b)(3)

3
-
4
It is still unclear whether Israel will disengage from the city after military operations are complete. If Sharon and his top colleagues are serious about turning Beirut into an "open city" where Israelis can travel freely, however, they probably will have to maintain a sizable Israeli presence.

(b)(3)

Lebanese Political Developments

1
Prime Minister Wazzan said in a radio statement that the US must share responsibility for the Israeli action, stating that the Israeli move into the Lebanese capital came after repeated assurances by the US that it would not happen. Wazzan questioned whether Arab leaders could support President Reagan's peace initiative since US assurances had no value.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(3)

Amin Jumayyil Candidacy(b)(1)
(b)(3)

8
the Phalange party has selected Amin Jumayyil as its candidate for president.

(b)(3)

9
Comment: Amin, the older brother of slain President-elect Bashir Jumayyil, has maintained ties with most of Lebanon's political factions, and he probably represents a political compromise acceptable to them.

(b)(3)

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