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TEXT

SUBJECT: BEIRUT PRESS REVIEW, APRIL 30, 1987

HIGHLIGHTS

- HUSAYNI ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF MINISTERIAL
- MEETING DUE TO NEED FOR MORE CONTACTS WITH
- PARTICIPANTS. BERRI BLAMES POSTPONEMENT ON
- "POLITICIANS FROM EASTERN REGIONS". CHAMOON PREFERS
- CABINET MEETING WITH PRESIDENT.

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--ISLAMIC GATHERING WANTS BIA REOPENED. JOUUBLATT
- GIVES AIRPORT COMMITTEE 48 HOUR DEADLINE TO
- COMPLETE STUDY. KANSO MEETS JOUUBLATT.

--MOUSSAWI CRITICAL OF U.S. BAN ON WALDHEIM.
--DFLP FAVORS PNC RESOLUTIONS, BUT PFLP CRITICAL.
- ISRAELIS AND SLA ATTACKED IN THE SOUTH.

--LAF COMMANDER ASKS POLITICIANS TO GIVE ARMY "A
- FREE HAND" IN CONDUCTING ITS OWN AFFAIRS.

END HIGHLIGHTS.

1. MINISTERIAL MEETING POSTPONED: ALL PAPERS CARRY
APRIL 29 STATEMENT BY SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT HUSSEIN
HUSAYNI POSTPONING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH HAD
BEEN SCHEDULED APRIL 30 TO DISCUSS SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS. THE SPEAKER EXPLAINED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT
WAS DUE TO NEED CONDUCT MORE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS
WITH PARTICIPANTS. IN PARTICULAR, HUSAYNI CITED
NECESSITY OF "PUTTING AN END" TO PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS
AMONG RIVAL GROUPS.

2. BERRI COMMENTS ON MINISTERIAL MEETINGS: AN NAHAR
(INDEPENDENT) QUOTES MINISTER OF THE SOUTH AND AMAL
LEADER NABIH BERRI'S PUBLIC REMARKS APRIL 29. OCCASION
WAS CEREMONY IN ZOKAK BLAT, WEST BEIRUT, HONORING
FAMILIES OF AMAL MARTYRS. BERRI SAID THAT HE EXPECTED
THE FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING APRIL 23 TO DEAL WITH "A
POTENTIAL ISRAELI INVASION IN SOUTH LEBANON". HE
CLAIMED HE WAS "SURPRISED TO SEE OTHER PARTIES
INTERESTED ONLY IN OPENING HALAT AND DISMISSING THE
CENTRAL GOVERNOR FROM HIS POST.. THEY WANT TO SELL
SOME OF OUR GOLD RESERVES TO PUT THAT MONEY UNDER
THEIR CONTROL.. WHAT IS REALLY NEEDED IS RESUMPTION OF
SYRIAN/LEBANESE TALKS." ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE
APRIL 30 MEETING, BERRI BLAMED POLITICIANS FROM
EASTERN REGIONS, "WHO DO NOT WANT TO OPEN NEW
CROSSINGS OR CANCEL DEMARCATION LINES.. THE BALL IS IN
THEIR COURT, NOT OURS."

3. CHAMOUN PREFERS CABINET MEETING: AL ANWAR
(INDEPENDENT) REPORTS FORMER PRESIDENT CAMILLE
CHAMOUN'S REMARKS AFTER VISITING PRESIDENT AMIN
GEMAYEL APRIL 29. CHAMOUN SAID THAT MINISTERIAL
MEETINGS ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE, HAVE NO LEGAL AUTHORITY
TO TACKLE IMPORTANT ISSUES AND TAKE DECISIONS TO
RESOLVE THEM.. THE FORMER PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT
MINISTERIAL MEETINGS SERVE AS PREPARATORY COMMITTEES
FOR ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA TO BE DISCUSSED LATER IN
THE CABINET WITH THE PRESIDENT."

4. ISLAMIC GATHERING CALLS FOR BIA'S REOPENING: THE
ISLAMIC GATHERING (SUNNI) MET APRIL 29 UNDER
CHAIRMANSHIP OF MUFTI SHAYKH HASSAN KHALED, AN NAHAR
REPORTS. COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AFTERWARD CALLED UPON ALL

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MINISTERS TO ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND WORK TOWARD REOPENING BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BIA). GATHERING ALSO CALLED UPON MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS WALID JOUMLATT TO EXPEDITE STUDY ON TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF ALL LEBANON'S AIRPORTS.

5. JOUMLATT CONFERS WITH AIRPORT COMMITTEE: AS SAFIR UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BEIRUT 02491

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(LEFTIST) SAYS MINISTER JOUMLATT CONFERRED WITH MEMBERS OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE TECHNICIANS TASKED WITH EVALUATING LEBANON'S MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AIRPORT CAPABILITY. JOUMLATT INSTRUCTED COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS. AL LIWA (SUNNI) REPORTS EXCLUSIVELY THAT JOUMLATT SAID BIA WOULD RESUME OPERATIONS TUESDAY, MAY 5, AND PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED TO START FLIGHTS FROM HALAT.

6. LEBANESE BAATH PARTY LEADER MEETS JOUMLATT: LEBANESE BAATH PARTY LEADER ASSEM KANSO MET MINISTER JOUMLATT (ALSO HEAD OF PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY-DRUZE) APRIL 29, ACCORDING TO AS SAFIR. KANSO DISCLOSED THAT THEY DISCUSSED EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH "A BROAD NATIONAL FRONT" IN LEBANON AND RESULTS OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. KANSO DECLARED: "WE ESTEEM THE SOVIET UNION'S SUPPORT IN OUR STRUGGLE TO DRIVE AWAY FOREIGN INVADERS AND OCCUPATION FORCES FROM LEBANON."

7. MOUSSAWI ON BAN ON WALDHEIM: AS SAFIR CARRIES REMARKS OF ISLAMIC AMAL MOVEMENT LEADER HUSSEIN MOUSSAWI ON USG DECISION BANNING AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** FROM ENTERING THE U.S.. ON APRIL 29, MOUSSAWI STATED, "THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM AMERICAN JEWS.. ONCE MORE THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION PROVED TO BE HOSTAGE TO ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS DOMINATING PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES.

8. DFLP SUPPORTS PNC, BUT PFLP CRITICAL: AS SAFIR CARRIES STATEMENT ISSUED APRIL 29 BY DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (DFLP) SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE (PNC) RECENTLY HELD IN ALGIERS. STATEMENT LAUDED PNC'S DECISION "LEADING TO RESTORATION OF PLO'S UNITY ON BASIS OF STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM AND REACTIONISM." HOWEVER, PAPER REPORTS POPULAR FRONT FOR

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LIBERATION OF PALESTINIAN (PFLP) TOOK OPPOSITE VIEW. ABU ADNAN, PFLP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, ON APRIL 29 DUBBED PNC CONFERENCE AS "NON-NATIONALISTIC, GIVING ARAFAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONTINUE PLOTTING AGAINST PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR JUST CAUSE."

9. ISRAELIS/SLA ATTACKED IN SOUTH: AL LIWA QUOTES LEBANESE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY REPORTING "RESISTANCE" FIGHTERS ATTACKED POSITIONS JOINTLY HELD BY ISRAEL AND THE SOUTH LEBANON ARMY (SLA) IN HILLS OF HIQBAN AND KHAZZAN NEAR YATER BINT JBEIL. THERE WERE INJURIES AND ONE VEHICLE WAS DESTROYED. IN RETALIATION, ISRAELIS AND SLA OPENED FIRE AT HARIS VILLAGE AND LAUNCHED 25 SHELLS THERE. CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE WERE NOT GIVEN.

10. RECENTLY ISSUED APRIL EDITION OF AL JAYSH (PUBLICATION OF LEBANESE ARMED FORCES/LAF) CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH LAF CHIEF MICHEL AOUN. AOUN STATED: "ALL LAF OFFICERS ARE GRADUATES OF ACCREDITED MILITARY INSTITUTIONS; THE LEBANESE SOLDIER HAS PROVED TO BE OF HIGH CHARACTER, DISCIPLINE, COURAGE AND MILITARY SPIRIT. THE LAF HAS NOT BURNED VILLAGES OR PLUNDERED AND DESTROYED CITIES AND TOWNS.. WE HAVE NOT COMMITTED MASSACRES OR ASSASSINATIONS.. WE CALL ON ALL OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL LEADERS TO GIVE THE LAF A FREE HAND IN HANDLING ITS OWN AFFAIRS. THEN IT CAN STABILIZE SECURITY FOR ALL LEBANESE."
MCKUNE

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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