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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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IN THOSE IDEALS, AS WELL AS BY ITS SOLID ATTACHMENT TO ITS INDEPENDENCE, ITS NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL UNITY, WILL SUCCEED TO FIND IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE A SOLUTION TO ITS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN A PEACEFUL MANNER CONSONANT WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE NATURAL DEDICATION OF LEBANON AND THE ROLE IT HAS ASSUMED ALL ALONG ITS LONG HISTORY AMONG ALL OTHER NATIONS. IT IS OBVIOUS, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE ATTAINMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE IN THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF THE AREA AND PARTICULARLY IN LEBANON. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT ALL POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS WHICH WOULD LEAD TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE OBJECTIVES. IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE FOR SO LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IT IS ALSO MY SINCERE HOPE THAT LEBANON WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP FURTHER THOSE RELATIONS AND TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND MOST PARTICULARLY IN THE DELICATE AND DIFFICULT PROCESS OF OUR COUNTRY'S RECOVERY. SINCERELY, ELIAS SARKIS. UNQUOTE.
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FOR THE SECRETARY
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT FORD FROM PRESIDENT SARKIS
REF: STATE 228799

1. FOLLOWING IS MESSAGE RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE ON
SEPT 25 AT 1515 HOURS FROM PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT BAABDA
WITH REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT SARKIS THAT IT BE SENT TO
PRESIDENT GERALD FORD. LT. ABU-NADER OF PRESIDENT
SARKIS'S STAFF, WHO PASSED THIS MESSAGE, SAID THAT "WHEN
IT IS MORE CALM," THE LETTER WILL BE DELIVERED TO
EMBASSY BEIRUT FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WASHINGTON.

2. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:
THANK YOU FOR THE KIND AND ENCOURAGING MESSAGE
THAT YOU HAVE CONVEYED TO ME UPON MY TAKING OFFICE
AS THE PRESIDENT OF LEBANON. THE CONSTITUTIONAL
PROCESS WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED MY ASSUMPTION OF
THE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES DESPITE THE LONG PERIOD OF
THE TRAGIC EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN LEBANON
CANNOT BUT CONFIRM THE STRONG BELIEF OF THE LEBANESE
PEOPLE IN THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY
WHICH CONSTITUTE THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS OF OUR
POLITICAL SYSTEM. IT IS ALSO MY SINCERE HOPE THAT THE
LEBANESE PEOPLE, GUIDED BY ITS TRADITIONAL CONVICTIONS
IN THOSE IDEALS, AS WELL AS BY ITS SOLID ATTACHMENT
TO ITS INDEPENDENCE, ITS NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL
UNITY, WILL SUCCEED TO FIND IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE
A SOLUTION TO ITS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN A PEACEFUL
MANNER CONSONANT WITH THE CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE
NATURAL DEDICATION OF LEBANON AND THE ROLE IT HAS
ASSUMED ALL ALONG ITS LONG HISTORY AMONG ALL OTHER

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NATIONS. IT IS OBVIOUS, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE ATTAINMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE IN THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF THE AREA AND PARTICULARLY IN LEBANON; I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT ALL POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS WHICH WOULD LEAD TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE OBJECTIVES. IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE FOR SO LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, IT IS ALSO MY SINCERE HOPE THAT LEBANON WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP FURTHER THOSE RELATIONS AND TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND MOST PARTICULARLY IN THE DELICATE AND DIFFICULT PROCESS OF OUR COUNTRY'S RECOVERY.

SINCERELY, ELIAS SARKIS. UNQUOTE.

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