

**The original documents are located in Box 123, folder “Lebanon (1)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

M —

A083

U I

KISSINGER 1-20

URGENT

3RD LD

BY NICHOLAS DANILOFF

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (UPI) -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER SAID TODAY THE UNITED STATES HAS WARNED "ALL OUTSIDE PARTIES" AGAINST INTERVENING IN STRIFE-TORN LEBANON AND DECLARED THE UNITED STATES WOULD OPPOSE SUCH INTERVENTION.

IN A STOPOVER ON HIS WAY TO MOSCOW, KISSINGER TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE "THE UNITED STATES WOULD OPPOSE ANY UNILATERAL ACT WHICH COULD EXPAND THE CONFLICT."

"THE UNITED STATES HAS WARNED ALL OUTSIDE PARTIES, AND I WANT TO REPEAT IT HERE, AGAINST UNILATERAL ACTS WHICH COULD EXPAND THE CONFLICT," KISSINGER SAID.

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING KISSINGER SAID THE WARNING WAS AIMED AS MUCH AT ISRAEL AS AT ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF THE MOSLEM COMMUNITY IN LEBANON.

IT WAS THE STRONGEST STATEMENT TO DATE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF LEBANON AND ITS FIRM OPPOSITION TO ANY ATTEMPT AT PARTITIONING THAT COUNTRY WHICH BORDERS ON ISRAEL.

KISSINGER ALSO APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP MEDIATE THE DISPUTE IN LEBANON.

MORE

UPI 01-20 09:18 AES

*This is fine*

Q - How?

A - Through diplomatic channels.

Q - Did the President personally send a warning to Syria & Israel?

A - I'm not qq to get into the specifics.



EMBASSY EVACUATION IN BEIRUT

Q: We have heard reports that U.S. personnel in the Embassy in Beirut are being evacuated. Can you confirm?

A: We understand that the situation in the immediate vicinity of the U.S.

Embassy has deteriorated and that Ambassador Godley has asked all

but essential personnel to depart the premises. *and go to their homes.* It is expected that

they will return when the situation permits.

Q: Is this a first step in a general evacuation of Americans in Beirut?

A: There has been no decision regarding the evacuation of Americans from Beirut as a city. Ambassador Godley's decision today was directed toward the U.S. personnel working in the Embassy at the time.

FYI: The situation in Beirut is quite fluid at present and all additional more specific questions should be referred to State.



## SITUATION IN LEBANON

Q. What is our policy toward the situation in Lebanon and has or will the U.S. offer assistance to the Lebanese Government or factions of it? Do you fear possible Syrian military intervention and the risk of counter-involvement by the Istaelis?

A. The recent events in Lebanon elicit our deepest sympathy for its people and their Government. We support Lebanon's territorial integrity and independence and we hope that a cease fire can be sustained.

We do not assist any faction in Lebanon, but we are naturally following events there closely and consulting with the Lebanese and other governments. We would obviously be opposed to military intervention by any other state in Lebanon, but I do not want to speculate on a hypothetical situation.

We have advised non-essential Americans, including official U.S. personnel and their families, because of the current turmoil. Our Embassy is watching the situation closely, and we are also providing medical supplies. We estimate our humanitarian assistance is running over half a million dollars (\$675, 000) as of this time.

We hope the situation in Lebanon improves so that all Americans will be able to return.

## SYRIAN TROOPS IN LEBANON

Q. Do you think Syria is playing a constructive role in Lebanon? What about the thousands of Syrian troops in Lebanon? Do you condone that?

A. We have consistently maintained that the political role Syria has played in mediating the conflict has been constructive. At the same time, our position on the risks of foreign military intervention remains unchanged. We have stated consistently that foreign intervention carries with it the risk of widening the conflict.

It is important to understand that the restoration of security in Lebanon, which the parties themselves are discussing, is very complex. It is not appropriate for the U.S. to intrude by commenting on every development in Lebanon. In the last analysis, the restoration of peace and security depends on the political accommodation among the parties in Lebanon themselves. We, of course, remain hopeful that a peaceful accommodation can be reached in the shortest possible time.

Q. What is the proper United States role in this crisis? Shouldn't we intervene with troops, as Ike did, to stop the suffering of the Lebanese people?

A. Our efforts have been limited to political and humanitarian moves: to assist the parties toward a political settlement and to provide emergency relief assistance including the President's proposal for \$25 million in rehabilitation funds for Lebanon. I have no plans at all to involve American troops. That would only make the situation more dangerous and explosive.

Q. Did we give any kind of tacit approval to Syria to intervene? Did we "clear" any of the Syrian moves with Israel?

A. We did not give any tacit approval nor "clear" any moves with anyone else. We have urged all governments to exercise restraint.

## EMBASSY BEIRUT'S EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice to American and other registrants for departure:

Citizens of the United States and other countries who have registered for departure from West Beirut are informed that sea transport to Athens has been arranged for July 27, using U.S. Navy facilities as was done in June. <sup>all</sup> U.S. citizens are urged to take advantage of this last such organized departure.

Registrants must assemble and check in for departure by ship for Athens between 7 A.M. and 8 A.M. on Tuesday, July 27 at the Riviera Hotel. Transportation to the debarkation point will leave the hotel shortly thereafter. Each traveller must hold valid travel documents. Luggage will be limited to two suitcases per person. Persons wishing to depart but who have not yet registered may do so by telephoning or visiting the consular section of the American Embassy (Tel. 361800) on Sunday, July 26 or Monday, July 26 between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M.

EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLE ON PLO

Q. Do you have any comment on the Evans and Novak article which claims the PLO is refusing to cooperate with the Beirut evacuation?

A. In keeping the our normal policy, I would have no comment on a speculative editorial piece.



Recommended by H.A.1 ← ISSINGETZ

Additional Guidance on Evans and Novak Story on

Lebanese Evacuation

There are daily exchanges occurring on the question. We cannot go into these exchanges or the details of the evacuation until it is complete, and we expect it to be completed.

Q. Will you still reduce the Embassy staff? To what level?

A. Yes, the Embassy will be reduced to a minimal level of ~~a~~  
~~about 15 Americans~~ (43 now)

Q. Things are looking better in Lebanon--the emplacement of the Arab League force and some hopeful indications from the Syrian-Palestinian meeting--why are we pressing for evacuation now?

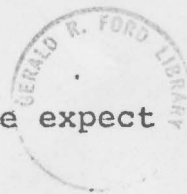
A. Because of the increasingly difficult living conditions, we decided to reduce the size of our Embassy to what is actually needed to function in current circumstances. We have an obligation to assist private American citizens who also want to leave, to the extent possible. We contemplate <sup>such</sup> no further organized departures and are therefore urging all private Americans to take advantage of this ~~opportunity~~ opportunity to depart under U.S. Government auspices.

Q. Does this mean you expect the situation to take a turn for the worst?

A. Not necessarily, ~~but experience has shown that developments in Lebanon are unpredictable. We welcome any signs that a political solution might be in the offing,~~ but we judge that it is prudent in light of the unpredictability and difficulties of living in West Beirut to evacuate as many Americans as possible now.

Q. You evacuated in June and now again in July; can we expect another in August?

A. ~~No, we do not expect that this will be the last organized departure of American citizens from Lebanon.~~ <sup>speech</sup> No, this is the last such organized departure.



Reduce embassy

services 2 Am community reduced  
Therefore Am. should recog. this  
living conditions difficult  
electricity, water

---

Palestinian groups will provide  
security.

### The Politics of the Evacuation

Q: Why is it that you portray this evacuation as an almost normal evolution when the June 20 operation was conducted in an atmosphere of crisis? Was that impression contrived for political purpose?

A: Certainly not. The threat of violence in a country at war is ever present. The particular threat to Americans or any other group may worsen or ease as the situation evolves. In June the risk of violence to Americans was manifestly acute and, at the time, prudence dictated that we assure the opportunity to leave for those who wished to take advantage of it. Since evacuation by motor convoy was not possible at the time, we selected evacuation by sea using a naval landing craft. Since that time, Americans have continued to leave. As the difficulties of life in Beirut have increased, we have been forced to reduce our Embassy staff to the minimum and we have therefore urged all remaining Americans to leave.

Master

Press Guidance for Use After the Evacuation Announcement

Q. Why did you abandon the road convoy for a sea departure?

A. On the basis of our exchanges with the parties involved in maintaining security for an evacuation, it was decided that departure by sea is the safest way to do it.

Q. Do the parties with whom you have been in touch include the PLO?

A. Yes.

Q. But private persons and convoys go to Damascus every day by road safely. Why couldn't you?

A. The security arrangements for a large number are necessarily more difficult to assure than for a single car or small convoy. The parties responsible for security ~~advised~~ advised us that the road would <sup>not</sup> be ~~totally~~ secure.

Q. Will Ambassador Seelye be coming out?

A. That has not been decided.

Q. How many will be coming out?

A. We assume <sup>that a</sup> ~~substantial number of the~~ substantial number ~~of the~~

~~of the~~ will leave on the 27th, though we will not know how many until registration is complete.

435 previously - 216 Americans (200-400 left if these 216 come out)

about mid night

- VOA announcement

- ad in morn. newspaper

## LEBANON EVACUATION

Q: There are reports that the US Embassy in Beirut is being evacuated or closed down. Are you in fact undertaking another evacuation operation? Is there any connection between this move in Lebanon and the election campaign?

A: The Embassy in Beirut is not being closed. A decision has been made to make a further reduction in the Embassy staff.

Consequently most of the normal services performed will be eliminated or curtailed including consular services. This temporary measure results from the greatly increased difficulties of operating in West Beirut. There is a shortage of basic food stuffs, gasoline and water. In the past few weeks, many other Embassies have either closed or reduced their staffs to the minimum.

~~In view of the fact that the Embassy will no longer be able to provide effective services for the American community after Monday, July 19, we have again urged all American citizens to leave Lebanon. Transportation for the departure of Embassy staff personnel and other Americans and any foreign nationals who wish to leave West Beirut will be provided on Tuesday.~~

Q: Does the United States believe that the security situation in Beirut is going to get worse? Does the United States have indications that the Syrians or Christians plan to attack West Beirut?

A: We do not have any indication of an impending attack upon West Beirut. The reason for the reduction in size of the Embassy is due to the increasing difficulty of operation, as I have said.

Q: What does the United States think about the general situation in Lebanon?

A: We hope that efforts being made to bring about an end to the fighting and a political agreement among the Lebanese parties to the conflict will succeed. We are continuing to do our best to assist in achieving this objective. I do not wish to comment more specifically on the details of the extremely complex and fast-moving situation there.

Q: Will Ambassador Seelye be among those leaving?

A: I understand there has been no final decision as to which Embassy personnel will leave and which will stay. Keep in touch with State for details.

QUESTION: Can you confirm that the US has switched from an overland convoy to Damascus to ship evacuation from Beirut? Will the evacuation take place tomorrow definitely?

ANSWER: After careful consideration of the alternatives and in light of the uncertain security situation along parts of the road to Damascus at the present time, the President has decided that the best means for the departure of Americans wishing to depart is by sea. Other foreign nationals can be included. Current plans are that this operation will begin tomorrow morning Beirut time, i.e., early Sunday morning our time. I will have no further comment at this time. Members of the Congress are being briefed. *(By Jack Marsh. They were)*

QUESTION: Is this a military operation or not?

ANSWER: This is a humanitarian operation. It will be carried out by <sup>an unarmored</sup> navy landing craft.

QUESTION: How can you be sure that this will be a safe evacuation?

ANSWER: We have received assurances <sup>as to the safety of the evacuees</sup> ~~we consider adequate~~. I will have no further comment at this time.

QUESTION: Have we been in touch with the PLO directly? A. No.  
Through third parties?

ANSWER: We have received adequate assurances <sup>GROUND? INDIRECTLY, FROM THE PLO.</sup> ~~but we~~ should not read this answer as suggesting that our position on contacts with the PLO has changed.

QUESTION: Who will be included? Are the British associated with this evacuation?

ANSWER: All foreign nationals, including the British, are invited.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

RON:

Here is what NSC  
says on numbers...I haven't  
given out anything.

Larry

## NUMBER OF EVACUEES

Q. How many have signed up to be evacuated?

A. We cannot be precise as to the numbers. However, it could go as high as several hundred. It will not be a question we can answer with any precision until later.

## FRENCH PEACEKEEPING FORCES FOR LEBANON

**Q:** Did President Giscard discuss with President Ford his idea of sending French troops to Lebanon? What is the US position on this? What about our repeated warnings against outside military intervention?

**A:** I discussed with President Giscard during his visit the situation in Lebanon and the desire of both France and the United States to be of assistance in ending the tragic strife there. President Giscard mentioned the possibility of a French peace-keeping force in Lebanon if the new Lebanese President were to ask for such assistance.

We told the French that should such a request be made by the new Lebanese Government we would wish to review carefully the situation prevailing at the time. Should such a possibility develop, we would want to know the views of other interested parties and whether such a French move would bring with it the introduction of other outside forces, to which we would be opposed. Our concern over outside military involvement has been based upon the danger that it could worsen the crisis in Lebanon and perhaps lead to a broadening of the conflict. Depending upon the situation, and the views of other interested parties, the possible course of action proposed by France could have a positive rather than a negative effect.

Q: Did the PLO approve this evacuation?

A: We have continued to have daily exchanges with various parties including the Palestinians in order to facilitate the departure of Americans and other foreigners. On the basis of these exchanges, we have decided on departure by sea. We are pleased that all parties have extended their full cooperation to facilitate this departure

Q: What will you do about the remaining people in the Embassy ~~in the Embassy~~ should the security situation become acute?

A: *we do not anticipate any further*  
I do not want to speculate on a hypothetical situation case.

*do not anticipate any further  
organized evac. by the U.S. Govt*

## LEBANON EVACUATION

Q: There are reports that the US Embassy in Beirut is being evacuated or closed down. Are you in fact undertaking another evacuation operation? Is there any connection between this move in Lebanon and the election campaign?

A: The Embassy in Beirut is not being closed. A decision has been made to make a further reduction in the Embassy staff.

Consequently most of the normal services performed will be eliminated or curtailed including consular services. This temporary measure results from the greatly increased difficulties of operating in West Beirut. There is a shortage of basic food stuffs, gasoline and water. In the past few weeks, many other Embassies have either closed or reduced their staffs to the minimum.

In view of the fact that the Embassy will no longer be able to provide effective services for the American community after Monday, July 19, we have again urged all American citizens to leave Lebanon. Transportation for the departure of Embassy staff personnel and other Americans and any foreign nationals who wish to leave West Beirut will be provided on Tuesday.

Q: But how will Americans leave, by sea or over land? And what US Government assistance (such as Sixth Fleet units) will be provided?

A: You may wish to be in contact with the State Department on this. I understand the precise means of departure from Beirut has not yet been worked out.

Q: How many Americans are involved and will you be arranging for the departure of other nations?

A: The Embassy is currently determining which American citizens wish to leave Beirut. The number who will be going can't be estimated reliably at this time. Again, I think the State Department can keep you informed on details.

Q: Do you intend to contact the PLO, directly or indirectly, to arrange for the security of Americans wishing to depart the country?

A: Let me repeat that administrative details, including the security of departure arrangements, are still being worked out. We will make the necessary contacts just as we were the last time.

Q: Does the United States believe that the security situation in Beirut is going to get worse? Does the United States have indications that the Syrians or Christians plan to attack West Beirut?

A: We do not have any indication of an impending attack upon West Beirut. The reason for the reduction in size of the Embassy is due to the increasing difficulty of operation, as I have said.

Q: What does the United States think about the general situation in Lebanon?

A: We hope that efforts being made to bring about an end to the fighting and a political agreement among the Lebanese parties to the conflict will succeed. We are continuing to do our best to assist in achieving this objective. I do not wish to comment more specifically on the details of the extremely complex and fast-moving situation there.

Q: Will Ambassador Seelye be among those leaving?

A: I understand there has been no final decision as to which Embassy personnel will leave and which will stay. Keep in touch with State for details.

2. BEGIN TEXT: (TITLE: AMERICAN EMBASSY ORGANIZING  
GROUP DEPARTURE FOR JULY 20)

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IN BEIRUT WISHES TO INFORM  
ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS STILL IN LEBANON THAT IT WILL BE  
ELIMINATING THE MAJORITY OF ITS FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING

CONSULAR SERVICES, AS OF MONDAY, JULY 19. IT IS FORCED TO  
TAKE THIS STEP BY THE INCREASING DIFFICULTIES OF OPERATING  
IN BEIRUT, WHICH REQUIRE THE REDUCTION OF THE EMBASSY STAFF  
TO A BARE MINIMUM. THE EMBASSY WILL NO LONGER HAVE THE  
CAPABILITY EFFECTIVELY TO PROVIDE SERVICES

OR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AFTER THAT DATE. WE THEREFORE  
STRONGLY URGE ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY  
AT THIS TIME.

THE EMBASSY IS ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION FOR DEPARTURE  
FROM WEST BEIRUT ON TUESDAY, JULY 20. DETAILS OF ASSEMBLY  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEPARTURE WILL BE BROADCAST AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE, AND AT THAT TIME INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE  
SECURED BY EITHER VISITING OR TELEPHONING THE EMBASSY  
CONSULAR SECTION, TELEPHONE 361800 OR 348319. AMERICAN  
CITIZENS ARE URGED MEANWHILE TO INFORM THE EMBASSY BY  
NOON SUNDAY, JULY 18, IF THEY PLAN TO DEPART ON JULY 20.

CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THIS ORGANIZED DEPARTURE SHOULD CONTACT THE AMERICAN  
EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION. END TEXT. KISSINGER  
BT



### The Politics of the Evacuation

Q: Why is it that you portray this evacuation as an almost normal evolution when the June 20 operation was conducted in an atmosphere of crisis? Was that impression contrived for political purpose?

A: Certainly not. The threat of violence in a country at war is ever present. The particular threat to Americans or any other group may worsen or ease as the situation evolves. In June the risk of violence to Americans was manifestly acute and, at the time, prudence dictated that we assure the opportunity to leave for those who wished to take advantage of it. Since evacuation by motor convoy was not possible at the time, we selected evacuation by sea using a naval landing craft. Since that time, Americans have continued to leave. As the difficulties of life in Beirut have increased, we have been forced to reduce our Embassy staff to the minimum and we have therefore urged all remaining Americans to leave.