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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Charles E. Waterman, NIO/NESA

SUBJECT: Talking Points

Military Situation

1 / -- Israeli forces completed the isolation of West Beirut last night, setting up road blocks on the Beirut-Damascus highway, and cutting off the PLO and Syrian troops remaining in the city.

3 / - Elements of the Israeli force have reached the area of the Lebanese presidential palace.

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- Israeli forces are in control of the Beirut airport.

~~-- The Israeli-Syrian ceasefire is holding, but there is fighting yesterday and today between the Israeli and Palestinians.~~

Iranian Troops

2 / X -- Between 1,000 and 2,500 Iranian troops are now in Lebanon according to three separate sources

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4 / in Syria. The remainder of the Iranian troops are Revolutionary Guards and militia, although they do not confirm this. Two additional regular infantry battalions are being airlifted to Tehran where they will be flown. The flight arrangements Iran originally made such as intended to dispatch between 10,000 and 30,000 troops over the next three weeks. the daily transit of two Iranian

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5 / -- Between 300 and 500 Iranian troops reportedly are inside Beirut where they probably are attached to Palestinian or Shia militia units.

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*See a Syrian base or Palestinian Base BASAIR
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how do we know

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Arab Reactions

- The Arab states have yet to decide on a course of action. Arab leaders, thrown off balance by the swiftness and extent of Israeli action, are uncertain about the outcome in Lebanon and the effect the crisis will have on broader Middle Eastern questions. Reporting continues to indicate popular hostility toward the US for what most Arabs regard as its collusion with Israel.
- Among Arab moderates, there may be some private satisfaction at Syria's discomfiture, and a willingness to acknowledge that there are positive aspects to the situation.

and fear of an Iranian link up with 900,000 Shiites in Lebanon

Soviet Reactions

- ~~Three~~ ^{Four} additional Soviet IL-76 military transports flew over Turkey to Syria over the weekend, making ~~seven~~ ^{eight} such flights since Thursday. ~~One civil IL-62 also made a round trip to Syria.~~ We have no information on cargo.
- The Soviet airborne division at Bolgrad remains on alert, although there are indications that elements of one regiment may be standing down;
- Soviet Union today issued a Tass statement -- indicating high level input -- demanding that Israel withdraw its troops from Lebanon. The statement is the strongest the Soviets have made since the crisis in Lebanon began. The Declaration, however, uses vague language, includes no specific threat to Israel, and does not commit the Soviets to any specific action.



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Further Information

- A situation report to be prepared by DDI/NESA circa 1630 will include additional material on the above events and related trends.



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