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Talking Points for the DCI
(3 September 1983)

Current Situation in Lebanon

The Lebanese Army has moved into predominantly Christian East Beirut and is establishing checkpoints and observation posts throughout the area. The Christian Lebanese Forces militia has thus far accepted the Army move without resistance. [redacted]

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Muslims and Druze are extremely fearful of Christian retaliation following the massacres of Christian villagers Wednesday. According to press reports, large numbers of Muslims are fleeing the city. [redacted]

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Druze leader Walid Junblatt told our Ambassador in Damascus yesterday that he was prepared to meet with President Gemayel if Gemayel is alone. Junblatt thinks that Nabih Barri and some members of the National Salvation Front would be willing to join the meeting.

-- Junblatt's willingness to compromise is severely limited by his dependence on Syria for political and military support.

-- According to press reports, Junblatt and his National Salvation Front allies are refusing to deal with the government unless Gemayel accedes to their basic demands. [redacted]

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President Gemayel drafted letters to the Arab League and the PLO yesterday formally requesting the withdrawal of PLO fighters and termination of the Syria's peacekeeping mandate in Lebanon.

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[redacted] a Syrian intelligence officer is in Beirut helping to coordinate anti-government activity and providing liaison between the Muslim militias and the Syrian authorities.

-- If fighting begins in the Shuf between the Army or the Christian Lebanese Forces and the Druze, the Syrians could stir up new turmoil in Beirut to relieve the pressure on the Druze. [redacted]

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