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ND016

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 81104120

Name of Correspondent: Elias T. Sadi

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Encloses a statement re: situation in Lebanon.

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>PL Burg</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>81104121^{TR}</u>	<u>JB</u>	<u>8114120^{CH}</u>
		Referral Note:	<u> / /</u>		<u> / /</u>
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		Referral Note:	<u> / /</u>		<u> / /</u>

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACTION CODES: | DISPOSITION CODES: |
| A - Appropriate Action | A - Answered |
| C - Comments | B - Non-Special Referral |
| D - Draft Response | C - Completed |
| F - Fact Sheet | S - Suspended |
| I - Info Copy/No Action Necessary | |
| R - Direct Reply w/Copy | |
| S - For Signature | |
| X - Interim Reply | |

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
 Type of Response = Initials of Signer
 Code = "A"
 Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

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CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4400 _____

Prime Subject Code: NO 016 Secondary Subject Codes: CO 086 PP 010.02
HU 013.10 JL 003.01
HU 013.99 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
 - n - 3 - Ron
 - n - 4 - Dutch
 - n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 - n - 6 - Ronald
 - n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Nancy
 - n - 3 -

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
 - n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 20, 1981

Elias T. Saadi, M.D.
President, American
Lebanese League
1005 Beumont Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio 44504

Dear Dr. Saadi:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your communication of April 3 to President Reagan concerning the situation in Lebanon.

Please be assured of the President's deep concern over the bloodshed there and his most fervent wish for an end to the fighting. All Americans abhor the violence which has devastated the beautiful land of Lebanon.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Jack Burgess
Special Assistant to
the President

JB/pap



American Lebanese League

2025 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

021493

Jack Burgess

April 7, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

May I wish you well on behalf of 2½ million Americans of Lebanese descent and express our joy at your speedy recovery.

I have recently returned from a trip to Lebanon and desire to share my feelings with you with the enclosed statement.

Essentially it states the following:

1. that Lebanon is worthy of saving;
2. that the Syrians must leave Lebanon;
3. and that the Palestinians must be controlled while their problem seeks a solution.

I hope and pray that your renewed strength will be the beginning of a new life for the Lebanese people.

Sincerely,

Elias T. Saadi, M.D.
President

ETS/tlm



American Lebanese League

April 7, 1981

Having recently returned from the second factfinding mission to Lebanon in the last year I want to update and share my thoughts with you.

Lebanon today is an occupied land. The three main participants are the Syrians, the Palestinians and the Israelis. Only a small part of Lebanon, the mountain itself and East Beirut are controlled by the Lebanese. In this drama, the government still exists in outward signs only and for all practical purposes has no control over any country. The major factor in the government's weakness is the lack of a strong internal security force and an inadequately equipped army. This paralysis continues because of Syrian hegemony.

The single most dominant Lebanese power, unquestionably, are the Lebanese Forces commanded by Bachir Gemayel. Any solution to the Lebanese problem must necessarily include them as a major factor.

Lebanon is engaged in an intermittent shooting war and a continuous war of attrition. This unnatural state of human existence has taken its toll after five years and cannot continue much longer.

It is not necessary to wax eloquent as to why Lebanon is important to the United States. Suffice to make the following points:

1. The majority of Americans of Middle East origin are of Lebanese descent, approximately 2½ million. This successful and assimilated portion of American society is vitally concerned about Lebanon.

2. Lebanon represents, in microcosm, the American dream. Seventeen sects, Muslim, Christian and Druze have lived together as a free nation. The system worked and it must be given the opportunity to evolve as an example to the politically and socially backward Middle East.

3. Lebanon needs to survive since it is the only place in the Middle East where there is free Christian presence. A free Christian presence will help evolve freedom for all. Politically it appears that this is what most of the Arab World fears most.



American Lebanese League

4. Lebanon presents to the United States a dimension of its Middle East foreign policy that is apart from the standard two traditional points of petro-politics and Arab-Israeli conflict (Palestinian problem included). Lebanon, with its rootedness in history and its historic ties to the U.S., represents a moral dimension to us as Americans. Its contribution to past and recent history surely cannot be ignored.

5. Lebanon today is exporting terrorism to the world but not by the Lebanese themselves. Terrorism by those elements who have come to Lebanon to use it as a base of operations and training is well known. We must now realize that these parties are surrogates for world revolution and the Soviet Union.

6. Finally, the Palestinian and overall Middle East problem will not be solved as long as Lebanon is boiling. I believe it naive to think that the Lebanese problem must wait until the Palestinian problem is solved. When will that be and can Lebanon wait? An unstable Lebanon guarantees an unstable Middle East. The U.S. must address the Lebanese question as a priority whose solution will begin to ease the overall Middle East problem.

Since 1975 the Lebanese have been fighting for their survival, independence and the integrity of their territories. The Lebanese man fights against the Palestinian army, the Syrian army and against the infiltration of diverse Arab nationalities who, for many reasons, have chosen to make Lebanon their battleground. These armies have taken advantage of the prevailing disorganization to make Lebanon a field of battle to settle (or keep inflaming) most of the Middle East conflicts.

While all of this terrorism and prostitution of the land is going on, the astonishing thing is that these groups with their propoganda machines have convinced most of the western media that this is a "civil war" principally between Christians and Muslims. This criminal abomination is still going on today. This surely is the blackest mark and the darkest hour of western journalism. Surely, our government intelligence knows better and this is where we plead our case.

Today there is a strong sense of nationhood by most Lebanese, although many cannot express it openly. The fragmented Lebanese society is being artificially kept apart by armed foreigners. The Lebanese society contains the cohesive elements to bring itself back together if left alone. It is essential that this begin to take place before what is left of constitutional government and institutions completely evaporates.



American Lebanese League

What are needed now are the following two steps:

1. The Syrians must leave Lebanon. A withdrawal must begin immediately and they should be replaced by an international force made up predominantly of Western troops.
2. The Palestinians must respect the Lebanese authority and refrain from being a state within a state. Armed conflict with Lebanese must end and provocation of Israel to the detriment of civilians must stop.

To achieve the above the U.S. must deploy its strongest efforts and initiatives in a serious, sustained and persistent way. We must act with the conviction that the saving of Lebanon is most important to us as leaders of the Western World.

The democratic West cannot, without losing its very nature, stay impartial in the face of the present evident destiny of a democratic country such as Lebanon. Lebanon, an independent state and member of the United Nations, has throughout its long history represented the highest spiritual and moral values.

A lack of solution to the problem will lead to partition which will reduce Lebanon to a series of armed religious enclaves which does not serve our interest as Americans. Action is required now before the Lebanese presidential election which will be a turning point in Lebanon's history.

Elias T. Saadi
President
American Lebanese League



Lebanese Information and Research Center

National Press Building, Suite 968, Washington, D.C. 20045 • Telephone: (202)347-5810 • Telex: 64427

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 1981

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Mr. Alfred Mady

PRESS RELEASE

Syrian and PLO forces are subjecting the innocent Christian population of Ashrafieh (East Beirut) and Zahle, the largest Christian city in the Middle East, to a massive shelling of barbaric proportions.

The inhabitants of Zahle and Ashrafieh are suffering not only from the intensity of the bombings but also from the lack of food, water, electricity and medical care.

Within the past two days, 110 persons have been killed, 400 wounded and 100 buildings destroyed. The bombing has reached such an intensity that the wounded are dying because of the lack of medical care and the dead cannot be buried. Six schools in the two areas have been destroyed. The shelling of the only hospital in Zahle has left 300 persons (the sick, wounded, doctors and nurses) helpless and trapped.

All contacts with the Syrians to stop their aggression have been fruitless. Even the order of President Sarkis, supposedly the commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, to bring about a cease-fire in all areas went unheeded.

Taking advantage of the assassination attempt made on the life of President Reagan and the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State Haig on a peace initiative to the Middle East, the Syrian occupation forces and the PLO are attempting to force the population of Zahle to leave their homes and settle elsewhere. As they have done in the past with other U.S. peace initiatives, they are again showing their displeasure. Zahle and Ashrafieh appear to be the victims.

It is hard to believe that these brutal attacks are happening under President Reagan, who stated in 1976 that if he were President, the tragedy in Lebanon would not have happened. The statement issued by the State Department regarding the killing of Lebanese Christians by the Syrians and the PLO is only a continuation of the Carter policy. This statement not only misrepresents the truth, it also provides a political cover for Soviet surrogates in the Middle East to expand their terrorist activities against friendly countries in the region.

We appeal to the United States, to the United Nations, to the world churches, to the people and governments of the Free World to use all the necessary means to:

- 1) Stop the shelling of, and attacks against, Zahle and Ashrafieh.
- 2) Compel the withdrawal of the Syrian forces and the PLO from both cities and to deploy the Lebanese Army in their place.
- 3) Urge the Syrian authorities to allow the International Red Cross to evacuate the wounded from the zone of conflict and provide them with medical assistance.