

No. 25/1982
21 September 1982

EC SUPPORTS DEPLOYMENT OF MULTINATIONAL FORCES IN BEIRUT

The European Community endorsed additional steps to avert further bloodshed in the Lebanese capital of Beirut, including the strengthening of the U.N. observers team there and the possible deployment of U.N. or multinational forces.

In a statement released yesterday the Community condemned the massacre of Palestinian civilians in Beirut over the weekend and called for strong measures to protect that city's civilian population.

The statement reads as follows:

"The Ten express their profound shock and revulsion at the massacre of Palestinian civilians in Beirut. They strongly condemn this criminal act and call for the necessary measures to be taken to ensure the safety of the civilian population. They welcome U.N. Security Council resolution 521 and are ready to support, up to the limit of their capabilities, appropriate additional steps, including the strengthening of the U.N. observers team in Beirut and the possible deployment of U.N. or multinational forces.

They strongly deplore the violation of the Habib plan and demand the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from West Beirut. They are convinced that the interest of Lebanon and of the region require the earliest possible withdrawal of all foreign forces except those authorized by the government of Lebanon, whose authority should be fully re-established over all its national territory.

The member states of the European Community remain greatly concerned about the situation in Lebanon as a whole. They strongly condemn

/...

the assassination of the President-elect of Lebanon. They appeal to all parties to show moderation and prevent further violence in that country.

The Ten reaffirm their solidarity with a friendly country whose population has suffered so cruelly and whose fragile stability is dangerously threatened. They are confident that the Lebanese people will be able to elect a new president in accordance with their constitution and to bring about national reconciliation. They renew their offer to assist in the relief and reconstruction of the country.

The tragic events in Lebanon have once again demonstrated that the Middle East can enjoy true peace and lasting stability only through a comprehensive settlement to be concluded with the participation of all parties, which means that the Palestine Liberation Organization will have to be associated with negotiations. Such a settlement should be based on the principles of security for all states in the region, including Israel's right to exist, justice for all peoples, including the right of self-determination for the Palestinians with all that it implies, and mutual recognition by all parties involved. The Ten note that the above-mentioned principles are commanding increasing acceptance. They therefore welcome the new American initiative contained in President Reagan's speech on September 1, 1982. In the view of the Ten it offers an important opportunity for peaceful progress on the Palestinian question and a step towards the reconciliation of the parties' conflicting aspirations.

The Ten appeal to all parties to seize the present opportunity to initiate a process of mutual rapprochement leading towards a comprehensive peace settlement.

In this connection they underline the importance of the statement adopted by Arab heads of state and government at Fez on September 9, which they see as an expression of the unanimous will of the participants, including the PLO, to work for the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East encompassing all states in the area, including Israel.

They call now for a similar expression of a will for peace on the part of Israel.

They believe that discussions of the Franco-Egyptian draft resolution by the Security Council could play a useful part in establishing a common basis for a solution of the problems of the area.

The Ten continue to believe that a basic element for progress towards a negotiated comprehensive peace settlement in the region is the creation of a climate of confidence between the parties. Consequently, they

/...

consider that the Israeli decision to establish eight new settlements in the occupied territories is a serious obstacle to peace efforts as well as illegal under international law.

The Ten confirm that they will continue to be active in pursuing their efforts to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting peace settlement. In this context they will maintain and expand their contacts with all parties."
