

is hope now that new and strong cabinet will be set up with intention of clearing up situation and getting things done. In that event we expect our program to move ahead fast. Min Minor had lengthy and frank interview with Leb Pres on Point IV difficulties with GOL with encouraging results (Emb tel 512 Sept 12).<sup>1</sup> Meantime, we plan no policy discussions with present "caretaker" govt. When new govt takes over, we plan discuss whole situation along lines this tel with PriMin making clear we expect initiative for development of program from them or to come from his govt. We can and will not be put in position of "imposing" aid.

MINOR

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<sup>1</sup> *Infra*.

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*The Minister in Lebanon (Minor) to the Department of State*

CONFIDENTIAL

BEIRUT, September 12, 1952—3 p. m.

512. I am in full agreement with Totec tel 511 Sept 12. While our program meets with considerable response on part of people who understand it and officials at technical level, I feel Leb Govt has failed to give us support necessary for success. Administratively, they continue to punish our personnel who have been waiting months for their effects to be cleared from customs. None of us feels that we have the atmosphere necessary for successful operation. Paradoxically, problem is not that Lebs dislike Point Four. It is rather that they are trying to browbeat us into large Point Four aid and especially econ assistance.

Because of my concern with this matter, I took it up yesterday with Pres El-Khoury in a long and cordial conversation. I outlined our concern at this turn of events and said that it is hardly in the interest of Leb Govt to discourage us in our efforts to assist this country. I declared that it was only fair to let him know my views and further that I intended to express these opinions in Washington. I spoke of the disillusionment of TCA personnel with the unfair treatment they are getting from the hundreds of customs authorities.

Pres El-Khoury grasped matter quickly and assured me in warmest terms that this will receive improvement. He added that frankly there has been no govt in Leb for considerable time. He stated that his personal philosophy is that Leb shld help herself and then receive gratefully any aid US is able and willing to give. He said that new govt, possibly headed by Saeb Salaam, wld shortly be