

league to Jamali's proposal that Jews in Arab countries be treated like Arabs in Israel. However, for immed future we feel that emphasis on internal affairs and on arrangement of differences with Brit still relegates Israel peace issue to background. FonOff source above states no further overtures from Israeli side similar to those described in encls one and two ref despatch have been recd.

CAFFERY

No. 493

783A.11/9-2152 Telegram

*The Chargé in Lebanon (Lobenstine) to the Department of State*¹

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605. Herewith Emb's evaluation of Pres Chamoun's prospects:²

1. Whether true or not almost every one in Leb believes Chamoun has Brit sponsorship. As result Brit interests may prosper. On other hand, Chamoun may be forced to react by leaning over backward to avoid stigma of connection with Brit whose interests cld actually be harmed. In any case, many observers believe he will pull Leb from pro-French cultural orbit.

2. In long run, Amer influence will probably be stronger not only with Chamoun but all Lebanese politicians by reason of our much talked about neutrality during election campaign. Chamoun is definitely our friend and when elected was preparing for Point IV leader-grant visit to US. As member of opposition bloc in deputies, he voted against Point IV but chiefly because he felt it wld aid in keeping Khouri regime in power. Jumblatt, leader of bloc to which Chamoun belonged, last night told an Emb employee, "this means no MEDO and danger to Point IV program". Remark was make jokingly but cld suggest future difficulties.

3. As Min to England and Lebanese UN delegate, Chamoun established many friendly ties with politicians in other Arab states. His relations with them shld be most friendly, particularly with Brit-influenced Jordan and Iraq. He will probably give strong support to strengthening of Arab League.

4. As Nationalist Socialist bloc member, heavily influenced by Kamal Jumblatt, Chamoun is of liberal thought. It remains to be

¹ Sent by pouch to Paris, London, Tel Aviv, Cairo, Baghdad, Damascus, Amman, and Jidda.

² Camille Chamoun was elected President of Lebanon by the Chamber of Deputies on Sept. 23.