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LEBANON

SUMMARY PAPER²

1. *Internal Political Situation:* Decree law "civil service" cabinet has completed program and resigned April 27. New parliamentary cabinet had been formed, recently by Saab Salaam, and will implement reform measures, initiate new ones, and continue general program started after bloodless coup of September 1952. Cabinet must try to restore confidence in parliamentary system, and silence critics who maintain reform program not going fast enough.

2. *Palestine Question:* Lebanese resent creation of Israel, but not quite as do other Arab states. Officially, however, Lebanon must adhere strictly to Arab League position. Refuses give permanent residence to 125,000 refugees now in country.

3. *Area Defense Arrangements and United States Arms Aid:* Lebanese leaders privately favor a MEDO; cannot openly advocate in face of public opinion locally and in other Arab states. President Chamoun has made good-will visits to Arab capitals and secretly tried use influence in promoting regional defense with West. Lebanon has signed necessary assurances to United States, can now receive cash reimbursable military aid; would prefer grant aid, however.

4. *Future of United States Technical Assistance:* Technical assistance program finally reached firm ground in December 1952-January 1953. Largest staffed program in Arab states. Lebanese now appreciate its long range aspects, but also will want grant assistance to finance major development program, e.g., Litani River Development, which United States has surveyed.

5. *Lebanon's Share in Pipeline Earnings:* Lebanon infected by agitation elsewhere and convinced oil companies making excessive profits. Lebanese pressing for renegotiation of Tapline (United States) agreement in order obtain increased revenues.

¹ One of a series of papers prepared for the briefing book for the Secretary's trip to the Middle East and South Asia; see footnote 1, Document 604.

² Annexed to this summary paper as tabs were position papers on each of the problems summarized.