

#12



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

25 FEB 1983

Dr. David N. Farber  
President, Jewish Federation  
of Reading, Pennsylvania  
1700 City Line Street  
Reading, Pennsylvania 19604

L-260000

Dear Dr. Farber:

Thank you for your letter of February 4 concerning the incident between an Israeli armored unit and a U.S. Marine Captain.

I feel that the key point of this recent event was the fact that the three Israeli tanks were moving toward a U.S./Lebanese check point and were only 300 yards from this objective when stopped. Had this force continued on its course and tried to pass through the check point, an incident of much graver proportion could have occurred. I am fully convinced that the U.S. Marine Captain acted correctly and in the best interest of all concerned by halting the progress of this armored Israeli force. There is no doubt U.S.-Israeli relations as well as peace efforts in Lebanon would have suffered a major blow had a clash between the forces involved taken place.

I neither "emotionally overreacted" nor have I "set out to blame Israel". At the request of the House Armed Services Committee before which I was testifying on other subjects, I read the Marines' report of the incident. I felt the Marine Captain behaved not only correctly, but courageously, and the President agreed.

I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to respond to your criticism.

Sincerely,

13-M-4494

28724

205-1085



INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

SEC DEF  
HAS SEEN

FEB 25 1983

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

I-06907/83 SEC DEF  
HAS SEEN

16 FEB 1983

FEB 25 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH: THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

7-122 FEB 1983

SUBJECT: Letter From Jewish Federation of Reading, Pennsylvania --  
ACTION MEMORANDUM

Dr. David Farber, the President of the Jewish Federation of Reading, Pennsylvania, has written a letter to you expressing unhappiness with your remarks about the recent incident in Lebanon involving three Israeli tanks and a US Marine Captain. Proposed response is attached.

Attachment  
a/s

FRANCIS J. WEST, JR.  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)

FEB 23 1983  
DEP SEC HAS SEEN

29724

22/12