



A DIPLOMAT'S DAY

Abduction and murder: Geoffrey Hancock tells the chilling story of the disintegration of civil society at the start of the Lebanese civil war

A Diplomat's Day is the personal account of the start of the Lebanese civil war in 1976 as seen through the eyes of the British Chargé d'Affaires and M16 Head of Station in Beirut, Geoffrey Hancock. He draws on original documents to tell this sometimes chilling story of the disintegration of civil society as people around him fall victim to murder and abduction. 'I have re-read the familiar buff coloured folders, still marked 'secret' and allowed myself to be re-absorbed by the tragedy of human folly they report.'

The book relates the grim events leading up to and following the murder of Francis Meloy (US Ambassador to the failed State of Lebanon), Robert Waring (his Economic Counsellor) and their driver, Zuhair al-Moghrabi, by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. 'It is my long held belief that the lives of the US diplomats and their driver were tragically wasted,' says Geoffrey.

'To succeed in this game of survival it was necessary to become a player,' he writes, and he describes how he went about this task in the volatile militia territories of Beirut and its surrounding villages, establishing working relationships with the leaders of various factions and thereby obtaining access to valuable information which he was able to pass on to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. He describes how the skeleton embassy staff remaining in the beleaguered city came, ironically, to depend for their security on the goodwill of Fatah, the Palestinian group established by Yasser Arafat.

About the Author: Educated at Wellington College and Trinity College, Oxford. He studied French and Spanish and joined the FCO with postings overseas to Mexico, Uruguay and Spain. He studied Arabic and was posted to Baghdad, Lebanon and the Gulf countries. Geoffrey served as Chargé d'Affaires in Beirut 1976, during the Lebanon war, but was also the M16 Head of Station in Beirut at the time.

PUBLICATION DATE 1ST DECEMBER 2011

ISBN: 9781848767423 PRICE: £12.99

PRESS PACK

FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS, REVIEW COPIES, ARTICLES, PHOTOS OR EXTRACTS
PLEASE CONTACT JANE ROWLAND

TEL: 0116 279 2299 EMAIL: MARKETING@TROUBADOR.CO.UK

TROUBADOR PUBLISHING LTD, 9 PRIORY BUSINESS PARK, KIBWORTH, LEICESTER, LE8 ORX