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CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Prime Minister meetings with the Conservative Friends of Israel

PRIME MINISTER

June 1985

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
26/6/85							
3-10-85							
8-10-85							
9/10/85							
PREM 19/1613							

Conservative Friends of Israel

45B Westbourne Terrace, London W2 3UR, England Telephone 01-262 2493



*Prime Minister
CDM
- 11/11*

2

9th October 1985.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

R10

My Dear Margaret

Many thanks for your kindness in receiving the official CFI National Delegation at No. 10 last Thursday evening 3rd October and for the courtesy you extended to us in enabling us to convey to you the anxieties and concern which I outlined in my letter to you dated 23rd September last.

Immediately following that meeting at No. 10 we issued the Press Release, copy of which I enclose herewith.

I do hope I shall be receiving from you very soon the further letter you promised with regard to your attitude vis-a-vis the PLO.

*They
keep
here*

Meanwhile we are all looking forward to seeing you at the Reception immediately preceding our CFI Top Leadership Lunch in the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool on Conference Thursday, 10th October.

Looking forward to hearing from you and with every good wish,
I am,
Yours very sincerely,

Michael Fidler, JP
National Director.

Founder Patron: The Late Rt. Hon. The Earl of Avon, KG, MC

National:

President: The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, QC, MP
Vice-Presidents: Baroness Airey of Abingdon, The Countess of Avon
Sir Edward Brown, MBE, JP, Baroness Elliot of Harwood, DBE
Sir Nigel Fisher, MC, The Rt. Hon. Baroness Hornsby-Smith, DBE
The Lord Sieff of Brimpton
Chairman: Sir Charles Johnston, TD
Treasurer: Victor Lucas

Parliamentary Group:

Chairman: Michael Latham, MP
Vice-Chairmen: Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP
Hugh Dykes, MP
Hon. Treasurer: Dr. John G. Blackburn, MP
Hon. Secretary: Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP

National Director: Michael Fidler, JP
National Projects Director: Sylvia Sheff, JP, BA

Conservative Friends of Israel

45B Westbourne Terrace, London W2 3UR, England Telephone 01-262 2494



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 p.m. THURSDAY, 3rd OCTOBER 1985

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL CFI DELEGATION MEETS PRIME MINISTER AT NO. 10

A National Delegation of the Conservative Friends of Israel called this evening on the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP at No. 10 Downing Street in order to convey to her the great disquiet felt by CFI members throughout the United Kingdom following her invitation to Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury to visit London to meet with the British Foreign Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP, as part of the 4 man delegation including also two members of the Jordanian Government.

The CFI Delegation pointed out that Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury were Executive Officers of the PLO, and this invitation appeared to be an invitation to PLO members to meet with a Senior Minister of H.M. Government which would represent a complete change from the Prime Minister's previously declared policy.

The Prime Minister gave the Delegation a full and frank explanation of her motives during the meeting which lasted for nearly one hour. The Prime Minister wished to get the momentum towards peace talks moving again and had been assured that Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury would renounce terrorism as well as recognise U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, when they were in London. She emphasised that Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury were coming in their individual capacities and not as representing the PLO.

The Delegation came away convinced and assured that the Prime Minister's attitude towards the PLO remained unchanged, in that they could have no part in the peace making process unless and until they renounced terrorism and recognised the State of Israel and the U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. Her invitation to the Jordanian/Palestinian Delegation to see the Foreign Secretary in London was with the intention of achieving such development.

The National CFI Delegation comprised:-

The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, QC, MP, (CFI National President)
Sir John Biggs-Davison, MP, (Vice-Chairman, CFI Parliamentary Group)
Victor Lucas, (CFI, National Treasurer).
Michael Fidler, JP, (CFI, National Director).
Sylvia Sheff, JP, BA, (CFI, National Projects Director)
Eddie Molyneux, (Chairman, CFI North London Area Council)

ENDS

Founder Patron: The Late Rt. Hon. The Earl of Avon, KG, MC

National:

President: The Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, QC, MP
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Hon. Secretary: Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP

National Director: Michael Fidler, JP
National Projects Director: Sylvia Sheff, JP, BA



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 October 1985

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Meeting with the Conservative Friends of Israel

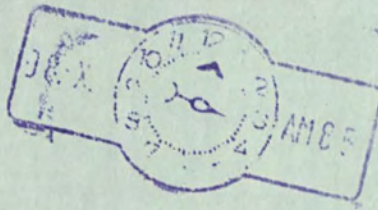
/ Thank you for your letter of 3 October. I enclose as requested a draft letter from the Prime Minister to Mr Fidler.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

EX-111

DRAFT: ~~Minute/Letter/Teletype/Dispatch/Note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

The Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Michael Fidler Esq JP
 National Director
 Conservative Friends of Israel
 45B Westbourne Terrace
 London W2 3UR

Copies to:

42

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

was pleased to have the chance to see

.....In Confidence

I welcomed the opportunity to discuss with you and
 your colleagues last week ~~the thinking~~ *and discuss* behind our

CAVEAT.....

invitation to a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation to
 visit London. You asked for further clarification of the
 implications of this for the Government's attitude to the
 Palestine Liberation Organisation.

a

ne to clarify to what you
after letter clarifying the
as invitation to an joint Jordanian/Palestinian
delegation

As I said in my earlier letter to you, this is not an
 invitation to the PLO. Nor does it signify a change in our
 attitude to that organisation. We do not recognise the
 PLO's claim to be the "sole legitimate representative" of
 the Palestinians. Nor do we propose to grant the PLO or its
 representatives any official status.

We continue to
 I firmly believe that the Palestinians should be
 associated with any negotiations between the parties to the
 Arab/Israel dispute through their own chosen representatives.

But if the PLO are to be associated with
~~But if negotiations are to have a chance of success the~~
we restrict to they
 Palestinian representatives, like all the other parties,

Enclosures—flag(s).....

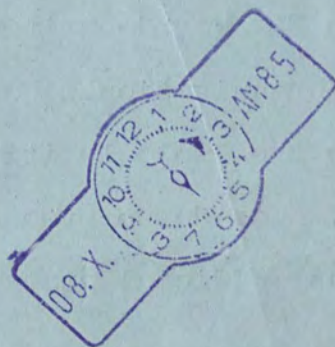
must be ready to commit themselves unambiguously to
 finding a solution by peaceful means and to the
 renunciation of terrorism. They must make clear that they
 are ready, in the context of a negotiated settlement, to

accept the right of all states in the area, including Israel, to secure existence.

I believe this view is shared by the leaders of moderate Palestinian opinion. Our decision to receive a delegation in London is intended to strengthen the resolve of moderate Palestinians to make progress in the direction so courageously mapped out by King Hussein.

This is something which we have long been urging the Palestinians to do. It is an essential first step towards peace negotiations. Our decision to receive the delegation was only taken after the most careful thought. I am satisfied that it represents a positive British contribution to the search for peace.

am





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 October 1985

Dear Peter,

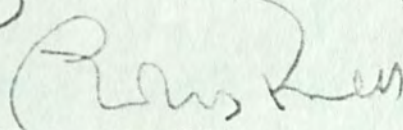
PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE CONSERVATIVE
FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

The Prime Minister had a meeting this evening with a delegation from the Conservative Friends of Israel. I enclose a list of those who took part. The delegation made clear their unhappiness with the decision to invite a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation, including two prominent members of the PLO's Executive Committee, to London. They were in particular suspicious as to whether the two Palestinian representatives would in fact make the promised statement. They quoted recent statements by Mr. Milhem declining to renounce violence and claiming that the British Government's invitation to the Joint Delegation was a significant step towards recognition of the PLO. If the two were equivocal in their renunciation of terrorism and recognition of Israel's right to exist, the Prime Minister would be put in a very invidious position. They suggested that the promised statement should be made prior to Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury's departure for the United Kingdom and be a precondition for their being received here.

The Prime Minister said that she did not think it would be feasible to impose such a precondition. To do so, would only increase the danger which Mr. Milhem and Bishop Khoury already faced. We had an undertaking from King Hussein that they would make a clear statement of their commitment to a peaceful settlement in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and of their renunciation of terrorism. She had to rely on the good faith of the Jordanian government in this and on the fact that the text which she had used at her press conference in Aqaba to announce the invitation had been cleared by the Jordanian Prime Minister with Mayor Milhem. She agreed that if the proposed statement was, after all, unsatisfactory, the Government would be in a difficult position. In the circumstances she did not think she could do other than make clear our view that the statement was inadequate and that our support for King Hussein's initiative and for contacts

with moderate Palestinians would be affected.

The members of the delegation said that it would be very helpful in dealing with members of the Jewish community if the Prime Minister were to send them a further letter confirming that the Government's attitude to the PLO as such had not changed and repeating her view that the PLO could not be involved in peace negotiations until it renounced terrorism and accepted Israel's right to exist. The Prime Minister undertook to write in this sense and I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft which goes as far as possible in the direction desired.

Yours sincerely

(C.D. Powell)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you very much for your letter of 27 September telling me of the feelings of the North London Area Council of the Conservative Friends of Israel about the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia and Jordan and the decision to invite a Jordanian/Palestinian delegation to London. I know that you will be coming to see me on Thursday and we can discuss these issues then. But I thought it might be helpful to your members if I were to let you have a reply to your letter in advance of that meeting.

Let me deal first with the question of arms supplies for Jordan and Saudi Arabia. And let me stress at the outset that I remain absolutely committed to Israel's right to security and measure any proposal for arms sales in the region against that yardstick. So far as Jordan is concerned, it is indeed the case that a memorandum of understanding covering the purchase of defence equipment was signed during my recent visit there. It is not the practice to reveal details of such arrangements but I can assure you that they covered the supply of a number of relatively small and uncontroversial items and did not include any significant new weapons system. I do not consider that the agreement could conceivably pose an increased threat to Israel's security.

The order placed by Saudi Arabia for the purchase of Tornado and Hawk aircraft is of course much more substantial

and I considered the implications very carefully before agreeing to it. My conclusion was that it would not alter the strategic balance in the region. This assessment is shared by the United States. We have never excluded selling arms to moderate Arab countries. Indeed, we have seen this as one means of helping to sustain them in their moderate policies. Moreover, Saudi Arabia faces a number of external threats against which it needs and is entitled to defend itself.

You expressed particular concern at the decision to invite a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation to London. While I can understand this concern I do honestly believe it to be misplaced for the reasons set out in a letter which I wrote to Michael Fidler on my return from Jordan. I enclose a copy of that letter and I hope that you will make it available to your members.

I look forward to being able to discuss this in more detail when I see you and some of your colleagues on Thursday. In the meantime, I send my best wishes to you and to all your members.

E.A. Molyneux, Esq.

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MIPT SECURITY COUNCIL: ISRAELI ATTACK ON TUNISIA.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF MY STATEMENT IN THE COUNCIL TODAY
2 OCTOBER:

MR PRESIDENT,

THIS IS A DISTINGUISHED BODY BUT YOU BRING ADDED DISTINCTION
TO IT. THOUGH YOU DID NOT BEGIN AS A CAREER DIPLOMAT YOU HAVE
NEVERTHELESS HAD A WEALTH OF DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE MOSTLY AT THE
HIGHEST LEVELS WHICH FEW DIPLOMATS POSSESS. WE SHOULD ALL BENEFIT
FROM YOUR WISDOM.

IT WAS WITH DEEP CONCERN THAT MY DELEGATION HEARD THE NEWS
OF THE ATTACK CARRIED OUT BY THE ISRAELI AIRFORCE IN TUNISIAN
TERRITORY ON 1 OCTOBER. WE LISTENED, WITH ATTENTION AND SYMPATHY
TO THE CHARACTERISTICALLY RESTRAINED STATEMENT BY THE
DISTINGUISHED FOREIGN MINISTER OF TUNISIA. WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN
CAREFUL NOTE OF THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY THE ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT IN EXPLANATION OF THEIR ACTION, INCLUDING THE
ELOQUENT STATEMENT JUST MADE BY THE DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR
OF ISRAEL. WE HAVE STUDIED THE FACTS OF THE CASE AS THEY
HAVE BECOME WIDELY KNOWN. IN SUM, THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION BUT
THAT THE RAID CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF TUNISIAN
SOVEREIGNTY: AND THAT THIS HAS BEEN THE CAUSE OF THE UNDISCRIMINATE
KILLING AND WOUNDING OF MANY INNOCENT CIVILIANS.

THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS FOR MAY YEARS ENJOYED EXCELLENT AND
FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA. IT IS ESPECIALLY SAD THAT THIS
ACT OF VIOLENCE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST A COUNTRY KNOWN
FOR ITS PEACEFUL AND MODERATE STANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
AND ONE WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY PLAYED AN IMPORTANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE
PART IN THE HISTORY OF THIS ORGANISATION FROM THE EARLIEST YEARS.
TUNISIA DESERVES THE SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY OF THE ENTIRE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE FACE OF THE VIOLATION OF HER
SOVEREIGNTY. MY GOVERNMENT OFFERS THIS WHOLE-HEARTEDLY. WE ALSO
OFFER OUR DEEP SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF TUNISIA,
WHO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF THIS OUTRAGE, AND TO THE FAMILIES
OF THOSE, BOTH TUNISIAN AND PALESTINIAN, WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED OR
WOUNDED IN THE RAID.

THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, IN A STATEMENT YESTERDAY, EXPRESSED
HIS UNDERSTANDING FOR THE DEEP FEELINGS OF REVULSION AND ANGER
IN ISRAEL AT RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS. THE UNITED KINGDOM'S
ABHORRENCE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IS WELL KNOWN. MY
GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS ANY TERRORIST ACT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BY

/ WHOMSOEVER

WHOMSOEVER COMMITTED. BUT MY DELEGATION CANNOT ACCEPT AS VALID THE REASONS PUT FORWARD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL FOR THEIR ACTION. MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2 OF THE CHARTER, COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SETTLE THEIR INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS. ARBITRARY AND DISPROPORTIONATE VIOLENCE OF THIS SORT EVEN IN RETALIATION IS IN CLEAR BREACH OF THIS OBLIGATION. WE ARE MOREOVER NOT SATISFIED THAT THE ACCUSATIONS LEVELLED AGAINST THE PLO CONCERNING THE DEPLORABLE MURDER OF THREE ISRAELI CITIZENS IN CYPRUS ON 25 SEPTEMBER ARE VALID. WE TAKE NOTE OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED IN NICOSIA THAT DAY BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION WHICH EXPLICITLY DENIED INVOLVEMENT AND CONDEMNED THE ACTION. BUT EVEN IF THERE HAD BEEN DEMONSTRABLE RESPONSIBILITY BY THE PLO, THIS WOULD NOT HAVE JUSTIFIED THE RETALIATION TAKEN AGAINST TUNISIA ON 1 OCTOBER.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN, AND OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, MEETING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION, STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE BOMBARDMENT, BY THE ISRAELI AIRFORCE, OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PLO, IN TUNIS, WHICH HAS VIOLATED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF A FRIENDLY, PEACEFUL AND MODERATE COUNTRY AND CONSTITUTES A FURTHER ELEMENT IN THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND COUNTER-VIOLENCE IN THE NEAR EAST. WHILE CONDEMNING EQUALLY THE ACTS OF TERRORISM COMMITTED AGAINST ISRAELI CITIZENS, THE MINISTERS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THESE DID NOT JUSTIFY SUCH AN ACTION.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN AND OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL WENT ON TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THIS NEW ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE WILL NOT ENDANGER THE EFFORTS NOW BEING MADE WHICH AIM TO BRING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT. THIS IS INDEED AN IMPORTANT POINT WITH POTENTIAL LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES. THIS YEAR HOPES HAVE BEEN RAISED BY FIRST STEPS TOWARDS NEGOTIATION ESSENTIAL FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE LONG-STANDING AND BITTER ISSUES RAISED BY THE DISPUTE. MY GOVERNMENT FROM THE START DECLARED ITS WARM SUPPORT FOR HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN'S COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE, TOGETHER WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION, MR YASIR ARAFAT, IN PROPOSING A PATH TOWARDS SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS IN THE HOPE OF ENCOURAGING THIS PROCESS, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN DELAYED DANGEROUSLY LONG, THAT THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED IN AQABA ON 20 SEPTEMBER AN INVITATION TO TWO DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO VISIT LONDON FOR A MEETING WITH THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY.

AS THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, SAID IN HIS STATEMENT YESTERDAY, THE URGENT NEED IS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. MY DELEGATION URGES ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE IN A PEACEFUL AND JUST MANNER NOT

TO BE DETERRED BY THIS LATEST CHAPTER IN THE UNHAPPY HISTORY OF VIOLENT REPRISAL. WE CALL UPON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, AND ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, TO REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, AND TO ABSTAIN COMPLETELY FROM VIOLENT AND PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS WHICH IMPERIL THIS OBJECTIVE.

THOMSON

YYYY

FCO PLEASE PASS WASHINGTON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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LIMITED

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PLANNING STAFF
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ECD(E) (POCO UNIT)
NEWS DEPT
INFO DEPT
PUSD
SED
SCD

PS
PS/MR RENTON
PS/PUS
MR FERGUSSON
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR EGERTON
MR O'NEILL
MR SAMUEL

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

ARAB/ISRAEL

PRIME MINISTERMEETING WITH CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

I attach a list of those who are coming.

You are very familiar with all the arguments. The folder has your letters to Michael Fidler and to Mr. Molyneux (both of whom are on the delegation).

When you last saw a delegation in June you said (in my note of the meeting): "Our own attitude to a joint delegation remained to be settled there was no question of our seeing the sort of PLO representatives who were likely to go to France and Italy but there were now members of the PLO's Executive Committee who, at least on a personal basis, met the conditions of renouncing terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist".

You will want to mention the Israeli raid on Tunis.

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

2 October 1985

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH ISRAELI/JEWISH CORRESPONDENTS

Mr. Murray's note describes the arrangements. The main issues are likely to be as follows:

- Invitation to a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation. The arguments are set out in your letter to Mr. Fidler (which the correspondents will have seen) of which I attach a copy. You may be challenged with the assertion that both Milhem and Khoury have made statements in support of armed struggle. We can't monitor every word they say and one has to lay off a bit for traditional Palestinian rhetoric. The fact is that Milhem and Khoury are trying to move the PLO into the path of peaceful negotiation and have called for a peaceful settlement. They have committed themselves (through the Jordanians) to make this clear when they come to London. We look to them to honour their promise. You may also be challenged with the argument: if you are ready to talk to the PLO, why not the IRA? We are not of course going to talk to the PLO, only to two individual Palestinians who will be members of a joint delegation. There is no question of our having dealings with terrorists. The fact is that the PLO are widely regarded by most Palestinians as their spokesmen, and we cannot absolutely refuse any contact with people associated with them provided they are individuals who renounce terrorism and violence.

- Arms sales to Jordan. We don't announce details. But the Memorandum of Understanding signed during your visit covered a number of small items, and did not include any significant new weapons system. It

does not pose any conceivable threat to Israel's security.

- Tornado. You are absolutely committed to Israel's right to security and regard this as the yardstick against which you judge requests for arms by countries in the area. You recognise Israel's concern about Tornado and reflected very carefully before agreeing to the sale. You concluded that it would not affect the strategic balance in the region and were interested to see that the Americans share this assessment. Moderate Arab governments are entitled to our support and to be able to acquire arms for their defence (otherwise they may turn to the Soviet Union). Saudi Arabia faces a number of external threats, against which it must be able to defend itself. If you are asked about the possibility that the Tornados might be made available to other countries, you could say that certificates covering the non-transfer of the aircraft to third countries will be part of the final contract. You will want to reject any parallel with Israeli arms sales to Argentina. Saudi Arabia has not recently invaded Israel's territory nor is she remotely likely to do so.

- 'Embargo' on arms sales to Israel. We imposed restrictions at the time of Israel's invasion of South Lebanon but are always prepared to consider requests on a case by case basis. (The fact is that the Israelis don't want British arms).

- Peres' Visit. You are looking forward to this and are determined to make it a success. You hope to go to Israel, if the invitation is confirmed, in the first half of next year.

/- Peace

- Peace negotiations. We agree that there will have to be direct negotiations, but in a framework to be agreed.

C D P

CHARLES POWELL

27 September 1985

P.S. There is an allegation in the Israeli press that Khoury was expelled from the West Bank for arms smuggling.

The facts are that he was suspected by Israel in 1969 of arms smuggling and expelled. But he was never tried & no case was proven.

C D P

LOZAN

CONFIDENTIAL

MILHEM, Muhammad Hassan Abdul Rahman

Mayor of Halhoul (in Exile). - PLO Executive Committee member.

Born 1929 in Halhoul. Muslim. Now lives in Amman.

After studying in Jerusalem and Beirut he taught in Hebron, Saudi Arabia and Halhoul a small town near Hebron, in an area which has always been a flashpoint between settlers and the Arab population. He was elected Mayor in 1976. A Palestinian nationalist, who took a robust line vis-a-vis the Israeli Government on municipal affairs.

An intelligent man, he has frequently, in the past, found himself acting as spokesman for West Bank Mayors. This, however, is the result of his command of the English language and his skill in presenting a case; his qualities of leadership remain largely untested.

In 1980 following an armed attack on Jewish settlers in Hebron, Milhem and the Mayor of Hebron were accused of incitement (not actual involvement in the incident or its planning) and were deported. When he addressed the Security Council on 20 May 1980 immediately after his expulsion, he said that he was not committed to war or violence. His highly articulate interviews with the media made him a particular target for Israeli sanctions.

A frequent traveller in the West when in London has held talks with Ministers (Mr Luce 21 May 1984). He also met US Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington in November 1983. Elected to PLO Executive Committee (as an "Independent") in November 1984 with responsibility for Education.

We have no record of his ever having any military responsibilities. In July 1985: in an interview with 'Al Fajr' (a Jerusalem Weekly). He said "armed resistance" was an option and was sceptical about prospects of Jordan/PLO Agreement. Attended Liberal Party Conference (September 1985).

CONFIDENTIAL

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KHOURY, Bishop Elia

Member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Assistant (Anglican) Bishop in Amman of the Diocese of Jerusalem. Head of the Anglican Church in Ramallah until deported by the Israelis in 1969 for alleged complicity in obtaining materials for bombings in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Khoury denied any conscious association with terrorism; he was neither charged nor sentenced. Served on the PLO Executive Committee 1974-77, having been elected in absentia. At the time he said that the PLO wanted to tell the West that Palestinian question was a Christian-Moslem cause. Does not appear to have been particularly active or outspoken. Re-elected at the Amman PNC November 1984.

Currently Director of the Ahlia Girls School in Amman. While in the West Bank had the reputation of being an outspoken Palestinian nationalist. Married to the sister of Kamal Nasser, former PLO spokesman murdered in 1973.

Was invited to visit UK by the Church Missionary Society in October 1984 but declined because of his wife's illness. He visited UK the following month under Arab League auspices for a 'Palestine Week'.

CONFIDENTIAL

North London Area Council of the Conservative Friends of Israel

R1100



President: The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher MP

Vice-Presidents: The Rt. Hon Peter Thomas, QC, MP, John Gorst MP, Sydney Chapman MP,
Sir Hugh Rossi, MP, **M. Portillo MP**, John Marshall, MEP, Councillor John Bull, JP.

Please reply to:

58 Talbot Crescent,
London NW4 4HP

27th September 1985

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister
10, Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

As Chairman of the above Council, I am writing to you as our President as well as MP for Finchley and Friern Barnet, to express the deep concern and dismay of the members of the said Council on two points. One, the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and two, the decision to invite two members of the PLO.

With the greatest respect, I cannot see how the sale of arms to two of the protagonists in the Middle East, while enforcing an embargo on the sale, not only of arms, but also of oil to the other protagonist, Israel, can aid the course of peace in the area. I would earnestly ask you, in order to maintain a balance in the Middle East and to prevent a new outbreak of hostilities, to lift the embargo. In this connection I would urge you to instruct the Foreign Office to abandon forthwith the prevailing odious system whereby the F.O. gives tacit approval of the Arab boycott by giving certification of the signatures of Notaries Public on negative certificates of origin where British commercial firms wish to trade with Arab countries. This practice is nothing less than blackmail and is eschewed by the leading E.E.C. countries and the U.S.A., in fact in the latter country, it involves offenders receiving heavy fines.

My Committee held an emergency meeting last night to discuss the whole situation. I have to tell you that we are deeply disappointed and very, very worried at the decision to invite two members of the PLO, an organisation convened to the destruction of the State of Israel. We have seen statements that they have "renounced violence". We have not seen a statement from them that they also admit the right of the State of Israel to exist behind secure borders and that they unequivocally accept

contd.....

Conservative Friends of Israel

Founder Patron: The Late Rt. Hon. The Earl of Avon KG, MC

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Sir Nigel Fisher, MC, The Rt. Hon. Baroness Hornsby-Smith, DBE

The Lord Sieff of Brimpton

Chairman: Sir Charles Johnston, TD

Treasurer: Victor Lucas

National Director: Michael Fidler, JP

National Projects Director: Sylvia Sheff, JP, BA

Parliamentary Group:

Chairman: Michael Latham, MP

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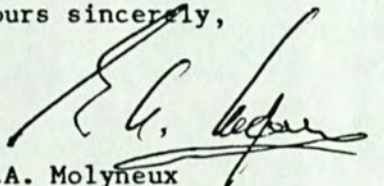
Hon. Secretary: Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP

UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Just as you refuse to discuss the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, do you not consider this to be a prerequisite of the acceptability of any delegate? We would also like to know how many Palestinians do the two men represent? If they are not delegates for an identifiable and substantial body of opinion, then their presence would be purposeless, except as the thin edge of an unacceptable wedge.

Because of our personal connection with you, we do not wish to jump to incorrect conclusions. On the contrary, the tenor of our discussion last night indicated that our members are willing to form an unprejudiced judgment, but, of course, we can only do so when in possession of essential and hitherto unpublished facts.

Therefore before attitudes begin to harden, we would be very grateful for your reply to the above points.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E.A. Molyneux', written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

E.A. Molyneux
Chairman.

subject a master

file

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 June, 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

The Prime Minister saw a delegation from the Conservative Friends of Israel, led by the Rt. Hon. Peter Thomas, MP, and Mr. Michael Latham, MP, this afternoon.

The delegation said that there had been some distress among the Conservative Friends of Israel and more widely among the Jewish Community at the apparent lack of success of Mr. Shamir's visit to the United Kingdom. There was also concern at what was perceived to be a change in the Government's attitude towards Arab/Israel problems. This was manifested in a readiness to consider proposals put forward by the Arab side, such as King Hussein's plan; but exclusion of ideas favoured by Israel, such as those contained in Mr. Peres' speech to the Knesset on 10 June. It has been noted that the Prime Minister proposed to visit Egypt and Jordan in September but not Israel. Finally there was trepidation over the proposed visit to Europe of a Jordanian/Palestinian delegation, both because of likely PLO participation in it and because it appeared to be part of an attempt to bypass Israel in setting the framework and conditions for peace negotiations.

The Prime Minister said that it had been necessary to be blunt with Mr. Shamir and expose the inconsistencies in his position. Even so, she had not said anything to him which would not have been welcome to Mr. Peres. We welcomed the proposals put forward by Mr. Peres on 10 June as a useful contribution to the peace process. She had considered carefully whether to visit Israel at the same time as Egypt and Jordan but had concluded that this would not be welcome to either side, but would give rise to undesirable speculation that the United Kingdom was launching an independent initiative. She had therefore decided instead to invite Mr. Peres to visit Britain in January and he had just accepted. She also hoped to take up next year the outstanding invitation to her to visit Israel. It would be nothing new for France and Italy to receive a delegation containing senior PLO representatives, though the Foreign Secretary had made clear at the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 June that Italy must not do so in the name of the Presidency of the European Community. Our own attitude towards receiving a joint delegation remained to be settled. Obviously there would be no difficulty in our seeing a

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Jordanian/Palestinian delegation which did not include members of the PLO. Equally there was no question of our seeing the sort of PLO representatives who were likely to go to France and Italy. Our position had always been that it would be difficult for Ministers to meet the PLO until they renounced violence and recognised Israel's right to exist. A new factor was that there were now members of the PLO's Executive Committee who, at least on a personal basis, met these conditions. The Prime Minister concluded that she had been most upset to hear of Mr. Rabin's reported taunting of the Americans over the release of the hostages. This could have far-reaching effects on US attitudes towards Israel.

The delegation warmly welcomed what the Prime Minister had said about the invitation to Mr. Peres and her own intention of visiting Israel. Their own information was that Mr. Peres was prepared to meet Palestinians who were members of the PNC, even though they were also likely to be PLO sympathisers. However they would be greatly concerned at any suggestion that Ministers in the United Kingdom might meet leading members of the PLO. PLO representatives continued to make statements supporting violence and insisting on the Palestinians' right to an independent state; and it was very doubtful whether Arafat would be able to deliver PLO support for direct negotiations. There was no question of Israel agreeing to negotiate with the PLO. The Prime Minister confined herself in reply to underlining the importance of taking advantage of the new climate created by King Hussein's proposals to make progress. The present 'window' would not remain open for long, and the government must do all it could to ensure that the opportunity for negotiations was exploited.

(C.D. Powell)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

cc SPC
MA



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

19 June 1985

An additional argument why you are not ~~in~~ visiting Israel at the same time as Jordan & Egypt is that to do so would greatly increase speculation about

Dear Charles,

Conservative Friends of Israel

As requested, I enclose a brief for the Prime Minister's meeting on 20 June with the Conservative Friends of Israel.

a British peace initiative. This would certainly be unwelcome to Israel.
Yours ever,

CDP
19/6.

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL,
20 JUNE 1985

Objectives

- Stress balanced approach, commending positive elements in Arab and Israeli initiatives on their merits;

Our Arguments

- Settlement only answer for all Parties. Welcome positive developments: Hussein and Mubarak. Also welcome elements of Peres' 10 June speech (involvement of Security Council Permanent Members and need for "authentic" Palestinians).
- Active in contacts (Shamir, Hussein) and close consultation with US and EC partners. Support but not cut across moves of Parties (and US efforts).

Tactical Arguments

- Growth of Arab moderation on Arab/Israel interest of all, including Israel. Vital to strengthen this trend to shut out radicals.
- On PLO/Palestinians. Need to involve interlocutors who count. Nonentities cannot sign a peace treaty which will stick.

Their Objectives

- Urge sensitivity to Israeli concerns on Arab/Israel.
- Probe Prime Minister's plans to visit Middle East and urge inclusion of Israel on itinerary.
- Urge HMG not to raise level of contact with PLO, and to be cautious about joint delegation.
- Perhaps argue for legislation against Arab Boycott.
- Perhaps urge lifting of restrictions on arms sales to Israel.

Our Response

- Settlement only way of satisfying Israel's security needs. No doubt of our commitment to Israeli security.

- Considering visit to Cairo and Amman after summer recess - return for visits here - but no firm plans, no "British initiative". Peres to visit UK soon - arranging dates through our Ambassador. Thereafter hope very much to visit Israel; would be logical next step.

- No change of policy on PLO. Ministerial contacts remain difficult whilst attitude to terrorism and Israeli right to exist unclear. No decision yet taken on delegation: must advance peace process.

- Arab Boycott question thoroughly considered. No intention to change policy. Trade with Israel flourishing. UK in line with EC partners.

- Defence sales restrictions will be reviewed when Israeli forces have completed withdrawal from Lebanon. Still considerable number of Israeli military personnel in "security zone".

Press Line

- Arab/Israel discussed. Agreed on need to build on positive developments, with the aim of moving to a negotiated settlement, satisfying both Israel's security requirements and Palestinian aspirations to self-determination. The Prime Minister reiterated her support in particular for King Hussein's initiatives and noted some positive elements in Mr Peres' statement of 10 June.

BACKGROUND

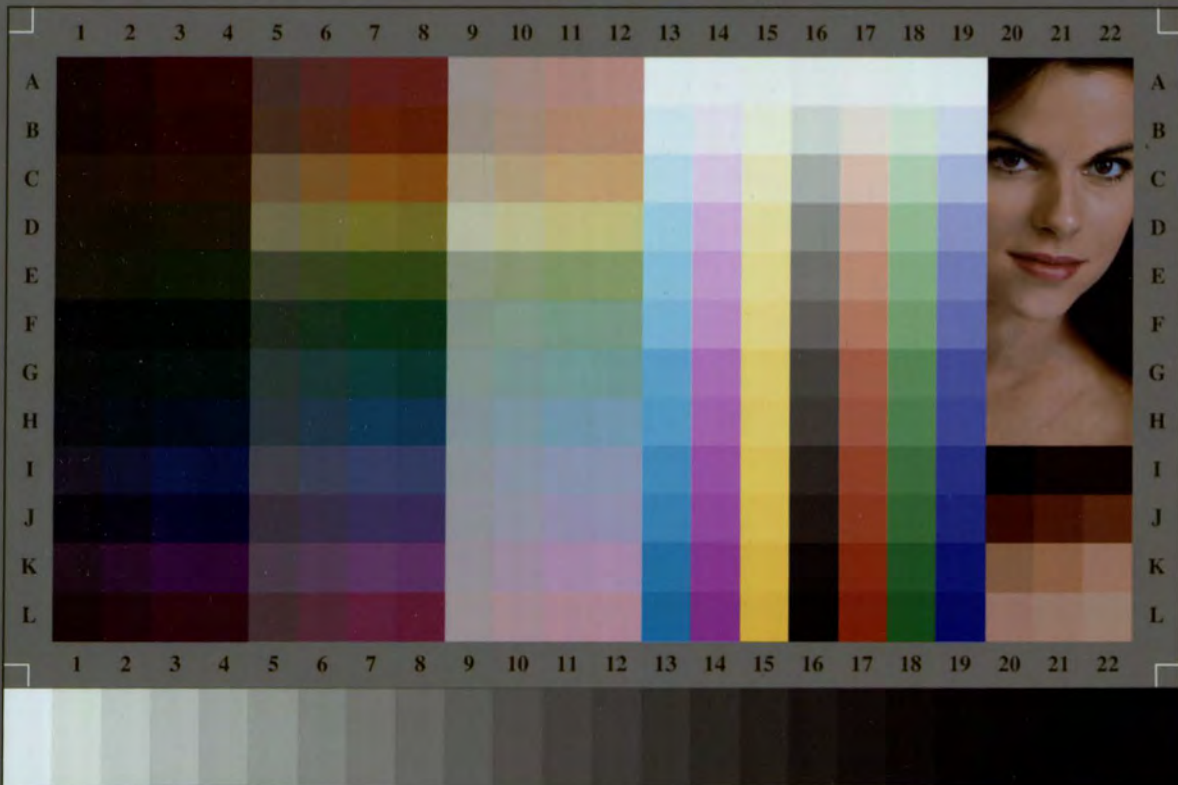
1. King Hussein told the Prime Minister on 7 June that he had proposed in Washington a series of meetings starting with one between a joint delegation of Jordanians and uncontroversial Palestinians (one from the West Bank, one US resident and one non-office holder from the Palestine National Council) and the US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Murphy, in Amman at the end of June or in early July. That meeting could lead on to a public PLO declaration accepting UN SCRs 242 and 338, then a meeting between a Jordanian/PLO delegation and the US in Washington, and then an International Conference. The Prime Minister commended a progressive approach but expressed reservations about the advisability of a formal International Conference. She undertook to consider carefully the King's proposal of a joint Jordanian/PLO delegation visit to London (probably the Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister plus two moderate members of the PLO Executive, Mr Milhem and Bishop Khouri). She said that she saw some risk of a early meeting upsetting the sequence of steps which the King had described. Mr Shultz met the Prime Minister later on 7 June and stressed the need for cautious progress, one step at a time, towards direct negotiations.

2. The French announced on 12 June that a joint delegation would visit Paris soon. The Italians have said that they are well disposed to receive a joint Jordanian/PLO delegation. On a national basis, they may well press the rest of the Ten to do so also in their Presidency capacity. Following an inconclusive exchange at Stresa, discussion in the margins of the FAC is likely to focus on this point. The Italian Ambassador in Tunis has reported that the two PLO representatives for this visit were likely to be Jawid al-Ghoussein (member of the PLO Executive Committee and Chairman of the Palestine National Fund) and Khalid Al Hassan (Adviser to Arafat, a former member of the Executive), but there continues to be conflict of evidence on precise Arab intentions.

3. In a speech to the Knesset on 10 June, Peres proposed a five stage process: US/Israeli/Jordanian/non-PLO Palestinians talks, Jordanian/Palestinian/Israeli working group, support for

negotiations by Security Council permanent members, appointment of "authentic Palestinian representatives from the territories" to represent the inhabitants and an opening conference within 3 months. The speech represents a compromise between Likud and Labour approaches and is probably intended to retrieve the propaganda high ground from King Hussein and to preempt any US shift towards Jordanian positions, but Peres has been careful to leave doors open. We have welcomed the putting forward of further ideas and singled out positive elements such as the need for "authentic Palestinian representation" and possible Security Council involvement.

4. Mr Shamir made a strong pitch in his talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe on 3 June for a change in British policy towards the Arab Boycott. The option of legislating against the Boycott has been exhaustively studied, including by a House of Lords Select Committee, which recommended against taking such action and that UK national interests are best served by leaving individual firms to use their commercial judgement. Mr Shamir also asked whether we planned to lift restrictions on arms sales to Israel, imposed in June 1982 in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Sir Geoffrey Howe told him that we would review our policy when the withdrawal of Israeli forces had been completed. Our latest information indicates that up to 500 Israeli military personnel remain in the "security zone" in support of the Israeli-created South Lebanese Army.



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