

CONFIDENTIAL

file

VB



Copied to
Master Set.

Middle East

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 August 1980

Dear Paul

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary spoke to the Prime Minister on the telephone last night about foreign affairs questions which might require action whilst the Prime Minister is abroad on holiday.

They agreed that the only problem on which further consultation between them might be necessary was the forthcoming Security Council vote on Jerusalem. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary explained that some of his advisers were most concerned about the effect of a UK veto on our relations with the Arab world, and especially our improving relations with Saudi Arabia and Iraq. There was clearly no question of a triple veto, but in his view the UK should veto any resolution covering sanctions against Israel. There were, however, signs that the present resolution might not attract the necessary nine positive votes. It seemed likely that the sponsors would consider alternative language if they were unable to obtain nine votes. If sanctions disappeared from the text, he proposed that the UK should abstain, even though the remaining language about Israel would doubtless be harsh. There might of course be something of a grey area in the decision to switch from veto to abstention, and he would consult the Prime Minister further before giving final instructions if this seemed necessary. He hoped not to have to bother her.

The Prime Minister was content to leave matters on this basis. You will no doubt be in touch with us nearer the time of the vote if the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary wishes to consult the Prime Minister further.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Mike Pattison

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

LS