

*Our antagonism to this was based on the assumption that it would arouse hostility in the Arab states. I gather that is not-*

CONFIDENTIAL

*new so.*

25829 - 1

GRS 392  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY 041000Z  
FM FCO 040905Z SEP 81  
TO IMMEDIATE CAIRO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 399 OF 4 SEPTEMBER  
AND TO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, BEIRUT, JEDDA, BAGHDAD, TUNIS, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO, EC POSTS, MODUK.  
INFO CANBERRA AND WELLINGTON  
INFO SAVING OTHER M.E. POSTS.

*I understand that Lord Carrington left the US Ambassador in no doubt about the difficulties this proposal would cause us: You will recall the line you took with the*

*Fraser.*

*And*

**SINAI MULTINATIONAL FORCE**

1. THE US AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME ON 3 SEPTEMBER TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM HAIG ASKING US TO PROVIDE A 150-MAN COMMUNICATIONS UNIT FOR THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS (MFO) IN SINAI (TEXT BY BAG). HAIG'S MESSAGE ARGUES THAT ONLY A UK CONTRIBUTION WILL OVERCOME THE RESERVATIONS OF THE ITALIANS AND AUSTRALIANS, WHO HAVE SPOKEN OF THE NEED FOR ANOTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN AND SPECIFICALLY BRITISH CONTRIBUTION RESPECTIVELY, AND THAT THEREFORE BRITISH PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FORCE'S FORMATION. EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE AGREED TO THIS. HE ACKNOWLEDGES THE DIFFICULTIES FOR US IN AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE, NOTABLY OUR TENURE OF THE PRESIDENCY, BUT POINTS TO OUR COMMON COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND SAYS THAT THE SAUDIS AND OTHER ARAB MODERATES HAVE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THEY WILL NOT TAKE ACTIONS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE INTERESTS OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE FORCE.
2. I MADE IT CLEAR IN RESPONSE THAT, WHILE THE US REQUEST WOULD OF COURSE BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, IT GAVE ME VERY SERIOUS DIFFICULTY. OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS WOULD SEE PARTICIPATION AS COMPROMISING THE DISTINCT EUROPEAN APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST'S PROBLEMS. WE SHOULD MOREOVER FIND IT DIFFICULT, IF WE PARTICIPATED, TO MAKE PROGRESS WITH OUR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE PLO TO ACCEPT CONDITIONALLY ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE. I UNDERTOOK TO DISCUSS THE US REQUEST WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN DURING THE INFORMAL MEETING AT BROCKET HALL THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

25829 - 1

WEEKEND.

3. IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE AN INFORMED DISCUSSION AT BROCKET HALL, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF EC POSTS COULD TELL THEIR HOST FOREIGN MINISTRIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE US REQUEST (WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS AT THIS STAGE) AND INFORM THEM THAT I INTEND TO RAISE THE SUBJECT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, APART FROM THE ITALIANS, THE DUTCH AND BELGIANS WERE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE AT AN EARLIER STAGE BUT EXPRESSED UNWILLINGNESS. ANY COMMENTS WHICH OTHER ADDRESSEES, PARTICULARLY MIDDLE EAST POSTS, MAY HAVE WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL. THEY SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, MENTION THE US APPROACH TO THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS.

CARRINGTON

MIDDLE EAST STANDARD

NENAD	MAED
MED	ES & SD
NAD	ERD
UND	ESID
EESD	CONS D
ECD	CONS EM UNIT
WED	CABINET OFFICE
RID	

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE