



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 August 1980

Dear Urian

Thank you for your letter of 17 July asking for clarification of a paragraph in my letter of 3 July.

I am not sure in which respect your constituents have doubts but I will do my best to make my meaning clear. In our view there cannot be a settlement unless the Palestinians, including the PLO, accept Israel's right to existence in peace and to security. We continue to urge the Palestinians, including the PLO, to accept the Venice principles in full. We will go on doing so at every opportunity.

As far as our own dealings with the PLO are concerned, you will know that officials have occasional and informal contacts with PLO representatives. This has been the practice under successive governments. Government Ministers have not met PLO representatives except as a result of the odd accidental social encounter. "Recognition" in the diplomatic sense is not appropriate for the PLO since it is not, and does not claim to be, either a state or a government. Nor have we

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