

Middle East

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CONFIDENTIAL

FH BELGRADE 061025Z JUL 82

TO FLASH F C O

TELNO 149 OF 06 JUL 82

Mr Coles,
No 10. D.S.
[Mr Holmes]

ARCOU -

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR COLES (NO 10) AND HOLMES.

Shot in London

LEBANON; PROPOSED VISIT OF ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE PRIME MINISTER:

by Arch LeDroit

BEGINS.

THE RECENT MEETING OF ARAB MINISTERS IN TAIF HAS DECIDED TO SEND THREE--MAN DELEGATIONS UNDER ARAB LEAGUE AUSPICES TO TALK TO EACH PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF BAHRAIN AND TUNISIA AND QADDUMI, THE PLO'S FOREIGN MINISTER EQUIVALENT, ARE NOW IN PARIS, WHERE THEY WILL BE RECEIVED BY CLAUDE CHEYSSON AND PERHAPS BY PRESIDENT MITTERRAND,. THEY HAVE ASKED TO COME TO LONDON TO SEE YOU AND ME LATER THIS WEEK. GIVEN ITS LEVEL, I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND YOU TO RECEIVE THE DELEGATION. BUT I DO FEEL VERY STRONGLY IT WOULD BE RIGHT FOR ME, OR IF MY TIMETABLE MAKES THIS IMPOSSIBLE DOUGLAS HURD, TO SEE THEM. NOT TO DO SO WOULD BE TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE LINE WE HAVE TAKEN EVER SINCE THE INVASION OF LEBANON. I KNOW YOUR VIEWS ABOUT MINISTERIAL CONTACT WITH THE PLO. BUT WHAT IS NOW BEING PROPOSED IS SOMETHING

ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THE BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN
A BRITISH MINISTER AND QADDUMI IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE
PLO'S REPRESENTATIVE WHICH WE DISCUSSED LAST WEEK.
HE IS NOW BEING PROPOSED AS A MEMBER OF A DELEGATION WHICH
REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT BY MODERATE ARAB LEADERS, FOLLOWING
A WELCOME SAUDI INITIATIVE, TO PROMOTE A NEGOTIATED
SOLUTION IN LEBANON. IF THIS INITIATIVE FAILS, I FEAR
THAT THE HAND OF THOSE IN THE PLO WHO HAVE ALL ALONG
PREFERRED INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM TO NEGOTIATION WILL BE
GREATLY STRENGTHENED. IF WE REBUFF THE DELEGATION ON THE GROUNDS
THAT IT CONTAINED A PLO REPRESENTATIVE, WE SHALL BE SEEN AS
ADMINISTERING A SNUB TO MODERATION AND TO OUR FRIENDS IN
THE ARAB WORLD. IF WE WERE TO RECEIVE SUCH A DELEGATION,
I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE WOULD HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY IN
MAKING IT CLEAR THAT OUR POLICY TOWARDS THE PLO REMAINED
UNCHANGED. WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT AS A PERMANENT MEMBER
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WE ARE OBLIGED TO LISTEN TO ALL
POINTS OF VIEW, AND THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION
WAS ENTIRELY A MATTER FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE. I SHOULD PERHAPS
ADD THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO
OFFER TO SEE SOME MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION BUT NOT QADDUMI.
THIS WOULD BE LIKELY TO BE TAKEN PARTICULARLY BADLY BY THE
ARABS. TIME IS OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY SHORT, AND I VERY MUCH
HOPE THAT YOU CAN AGREE THAT DOUGLAS HURD SHOULD CONVEY
A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE DELEGATIONS' REQUEST FOR A
MEETING.

BOLLAND

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