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subject copy filed on: -
Middle East: Situation: P670.



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 October, 1982

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 198/82**

Your Majesty,

I am most grateful to you for your letter of 13 October and for the care you have taken to keep me informed of the progress of your discussions with the Americans and the Palestinians. The present phase of Middle East diplomacy has placed a great burden of responsibility upon you and the Jordanian people. I should like you to know not only that you have our continued support and admiration, but that we are prepared to help as actively as we can in turning the present opportunity into positive results.

Mr. Urwick has reported fully on your important discussions about future Jordanian/Palestinian relations. I am glad to hear that you regard them as a good start. We recognise the very difficult obstacles that you face, even if you succeed in agreeing with Palestinian leaders on a political strategy. I remain convinced that no real progress can be made until the PLO commits itself unequivocally to recognition of Israel's right to live in peace and security as an essential part of a settlement which would also cover Palestinian rights. I am sure you were right to put this to Mr. Arafat in forthright terms. The PLO are now at a

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crossroads. It is essential that they recognise that a failure to take up the political alternative whole-heartedly may simply condemn the Palestinians to many more years of frustration and misery. Your discussions are most important in bringing the PLO to face the reality of their position, and to think constructively about how they can best exercise their rights in the light of all the circumstances. I have no doubt that if they make the unequivocal statement you urged on Mr. Arafat, the rewards will be significant.

I too look forward to discussing these and other issues with you at the earliest opportunity. I should be delighted if your travel plans enabled you to visit London during the autumn.

With my kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal.