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Subject copy filed on: -

Pm: Arab League Delegation: Aug 80 CONFIDENTIAL

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OO AMMAN (DESKBY 020630Z)
OO JEDDA
OO DAMASCUS
GR 594
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DESKBY 020630Z
FM F C O 012130Z DEC 82
TO IMMEDIATE AMMAN

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 228 8/82

TELEGRAM NUMBER 325 OF 1 DECEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE JEDDA, RABAT, DAMASCUS, TUNIS, ALGIERS, WASHINGTON.
ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO KING
HUSSEIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
YOUR MAJESTY:

I WAS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE SENT THROUGH MR URWICK ON
22 NOVEMBER AND WARMLY RECIPROCATE YOUR GOOD WISHES.
I SHOULD BE DELIGHTED IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR US TO MEET SOON:
THERE IS A GREAT DEAL TO DISCUSS ON WHICH I SHOULD MUCH VALUE YOUR
WISE COUNSEL.

I CONSIDERED YOUR MESSAGE VERY SERIOUSLY. THE SOONER ALL THE
PARTIES CONCERNED WITH THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND THOSE WHO WISH
TO HELP THEM TOWARDS PEACE CAN SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND DISCUSS
THE NEXT STEPS WITHIN A REALISTIC AND POSITIVE FRAMEWORK, THE
SOONER THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WILL BE RELEASED FROM THEIR ORDEALS
AND ABLE TO FULFIL THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. YOU KNOW FROM
MY MESSAGE OF 22 OCTOBER HOW MUCH I HOPE THAT THE AMERICAN PROPOSALS
AND YOUR COURAGEOUS AND FORTHRIGHT RESPONSE TO THEM, WILL LEAD TO
PROGRESS. BUT I DO NOT THINK THAT A CHANGE IN BRITISH POLICY IN
FAVOUR OF THE PLO, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY CLEAR MOVE FORWARD BY THEM,
WILL HELP TO BRING THIS ABOUT. YOU YOURSELF HAVE BEEN URGING THE
PLO TO MAKE CLEAR THEIR ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT
TO EXIST IN PEACE AND SECURITY AND MY EARLIER MESSAGE FULLY
SUPPORTED YOU IN THIS. I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT IT IS AN ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY STEP IF THERE ARE TO BE REALISTIC NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS, JUST AS IT IS NECESSARY THAT ISRAEL
ACCEPTS THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS.

THE BRITISH

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39705 - 1

THE BRITISH POSITION ON CONTACTS WITH THE PLO, WITH WHICH OUR ARAB FRIENDS ARE FAMILIAR, AIMS TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS STEP, AND IS WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH THE VENICE DECLARATION AND THE EUROPEAN STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE FOLLOWED IT. I BELIEVE IT IS YOUR OWN VIEW THAT THE PLO MUST NOT BE ENCOURAGED IN THE ILLUSION THAT THEIR MAXIMUM DEMANDS ARE NEGOTIABLE. I FEAR THAT THE NEWS FROM THE RECENT PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN DAMASCUS IS NOT ENCOURAGING. AND I CANNOT SEE THAT THE LATEST CHANGE IN THE FRENCH APPROACH, FOR INSTANCE, HAS ACHIEVED ANY PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE.

THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH OUR POLICY IS BASED ARE INTENDED TO BE HELPFUL TO THE CAUSE OF PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE AMERICANS HARD ON THE URGENT NEED FOR ISRAEL TO IMPLEMENT THE SETTLEMENT FREEZE.

I VERY MUCH REGRET THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION WILL NOT NOW BE COMING TO LONDON THIS WEEK. ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO IT SEEMED THAT WE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ITS COMPOSITION THAT KEPT APART THE PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. THE PROPOSAL WHICH WE PUT FORWARD WHEN THE FORMAL REQUEST FOR PLO PARTICIPATION WAS MADE AT A LATE STAGE WAS INTENDED TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE. IF THE PLO WERE TO MAKE OR AGREE TO A STATEMENT ON THE LINES WE SUGGESTED, IT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS SILENCING THOSE WHO CONSTANTLY SEEK TO DISCREDIT THE PALESTINIANS AND THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS.

I AM SAD THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS HAVE ARISEN AND TRUST THEY WILL SOON BE RESOLVED. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO HELPING THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, AND TO ENCOURAGING A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE RECENTLY OPENED UP. I HOPE A WAY CAN STILL BE FOUND, CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES OF BOTH OURSELVES AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES, FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO COME TO LONDON AND BE APPROPRIATELY RECEIVED. I SINCERELY HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH EACH OTHER IN PURSUIT OF OUR COMMON GOALS.

PYM

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2

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