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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 225A/82

22 November, 1982

Dear Prime Minister

I take this occasion to send you my warmest greetings and sincere good wishes for your continued good health and success.

It has, indeed, been too long since I last had the pleasure of meeting you to discuss the many subjects of mutual interest and concern. I look forward to the earliest opportunity to do so as I always value your counsel and treasure our friendship.

It is in the spirit of friendship, confidence and trust, which we share, that I permit myself to presume, for the first time, upon your tolerance and to address the subject of the impending visit to London of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, heading the Arab Delegation representing the Fez Summit.

Although many mutual friends have approached me in the hope that I may raise this subject with you, I do so now, however, out of my personal conviction and for no other reason. I believe it to be firmly in our mutual interest and in the interest of strengthening British/Arab relations, as well as in the interests of those committed to the cause of a just and durable peace in the area, to recommend and plead with you most urgently and strongly that the time has come, particularly when the Summit Delegation visits London, for you to receive amongst its members the representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Dear friend, if you should do so you would be receiving the Arab Summit's mission representing, for the first time, the total Arab consensus and commitment for peace. You would be encouraging this totally positive trend and direction within the

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Arab world and the P.L.O., as it represents the long suffering Palestinian people and their yearning for a life of dignity and peace, as well as the right of all in the area to such a life and future.

The eight points of the Fez Summit are derived totally from the United Nations and Security Council resolutions in spirit and in word. The concept of two states, a Jewish State and a Palestinian State of the Partition Plan, now referred to as Israel and Palestine, is the only foundation of Israel's legitimacy at the international and legal levels. The famous British Security Council Resolution 242 emphasized the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force; the rights of all followers of the three great monotheistic religions in their Holy Places; the right of return or compensation for the Palestinians; and the right of all in the area to live in peace and security. The same principle was upheld by Britain in the Falklands under your wise and courageous leadership with our total support.

The P.L.O. leadership is committed in our discussions to all these foundations for peace. What is the wisdom then in questioning this commitment to the principles we have all long sought to uphold? How can we resolve the Palestinian problem in the absence of the Palestinians? And what right do we have to deny them the right to be amongst the foremost to seek the establishment of a just and durable peace when they are the main aggrieved party, and when they have joined the entire Arab Family, as they did at Fez, in the clearest commitment to the cause of peace?

It is, indeed, sad that in our world we tend to name a people's struggle for their rights differently, and thus a people may be called freedom fighters, members of a resistance movement, mujahideen, or terrorists, by different people at the same time. The fact is that a State, such as Israel, established through the use of force, still practices large scale and indiscriminate terrorism and denies the rights of others to self-determination. The

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Palestinians deserve to be recognized in terms of their clear rights. It is through their prolonged suffering that they have been encouraged by the world to move for peace and human dignity, both for themselves and others. They have taken great steps in that direction which deserve our recognition and encouragement.

As you are fully aware, we are steadily moving to organize future Jordanian/Palestinian relations. The question of specific Palestinian recognition of the reality of Israel and Israel's rights, in addition to the P.L.O.'s commitment at Fez, is agreed in principle. Yet, Prime Minister, to be fair, and you are always fair, Israel should simultaneously be convinced to recognize the legitimate Palestinians rights on Palestinian soil. Nothing could be more meaningful or constructive than meeting P.L.O. representatives at this stage to encourage Palestinian positiveness so that obstacles may be removed from the path of peace.

Prime Minister, I have just returned from France where I headed the same group, in our talks with the President, that I shall shortly be leading to the Soviet Union and China, at which point this phase of combined Arab diplomacy, emanating from the Fez Summit, will be concluded.

I know that if the P.L.O. are to be excluded from the group headed by His Majesty King Hassan, when they have the opportunity to meet with you, then the P.L.O. would not come to London in the first place. I also know that other Foreign Ministers of Arab States would feel that their presence on the mission, under those circumstances, would be out of place. Under those circumstances your position would, unfortunately, appear to be a deliberate affront to the entire Arab world as represented by the Summit and the mission representing it from Fez. It would, indeed, be unfortunate if a crisis in relations resulted with all the damage it would cause to all, particularly when we need, dear Prime Minister, to work so closely together in the times ahead to achieve the just, honourable and lasting peace in the area which is our mutual objective and to which we are dedicated.

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With all these realities and so much at stake,  
I felt it imperative that I write to you to  
request your understanding and kind consideration  
of the matter. I pray to God that he may guide  
your steps always.

*I am*

*Your Sincere Friend,*

*J. Hunt*

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
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