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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1981

*Dear Michael*

Sinai MFO

Lord Carrington has today in Luxembourg had further talks with his French, Italian and Dutch colleagues on the lines he discussed with the Prime Minister in Cancun. It was clear that others would not be prepared to participate if we did not, and Lord Carrington therefore did not pursue this line to a point which would have provoked a breakdown with a high probability of very damaging press leaks.

The four Ministers went on to consider the draft statement, and reached agreement on the enclosed text. Our three partners now look to us to send it to the Ten by Coreu as soon as possible in order to confirm general endorsement of the line proposed.

The reference in earlier drafts to an independent state for the Palestinians has been dropped, at the insistence of our partners. But sentences have been added at the end of the second paragraph of the statement which usefully make explicit our dissociation from the rest of the Camp David process, and we consider the text to be satisfactory.

Following agreement amongst the Ten, the four European Governments concerned propose to notify the Americans of the terms of our proposed statement and then to approach Arab Governments to explain the reasons for the decision. The timing of the public announcement, which Lord Carrington would propose should be made to Parliament, will depend on the speed with which these stages can be completed.

If the Prime Minister agrees, Lord Carrington would propose to circulate a minute to colleagues in OD to put them fully in the picture, and may wish at that stage to cover issues such as the financing of our contribution which will require further consideration.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Omand in the Ministry of Defence. There may be points to add when I have had a fuller report of what transpired in Luxembourg.

*Yours ever*  
*Frian*  
(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing St

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OUT COREU TELEGRAM

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| 9  | SINAI MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS (MFO)                                    |
| 10 | 1. The <u>Presidency</u> wishes to inform partners that the Govern-              |
| 11 | ments of France, Italy, The Netherlands and the UK have decided                  |
| 12 | to participate in the Sinai MFO on the basis of the statement                    |
| 13 | in the immediately following <sup>five</sup> paragraphs.                         |
| 14 | 2. BEGINS: The Governments of France, Italy, The Netherlands                     |
| 15 | and the United Kingdom, in consultation and agreement with their                 |
| 16 | partners in the Ten, have decided, subject to their constitutional               |
| 17 | procedures and to agreement on the practical and legal arrange-                  |
| 18 | ments, to contribute to the multinational force and observers in                 |
| 19 | Sinai, at the request of the Governments of <u>Egypt</u> , <u>Israel</u> and the |
| 20 | <u>United States</u> .   |
| 21 | 3. The decision is a symbol of their determination to achieve                    |
| 22 | a <u>comprehensive</u> peace settlement following negotiations between           |
| 23 | the parties which would bring justice for all the peoples and                    |
| 24 | security for all the states of the area. They welcomed the                       |
| 25 | achievement of peace between Israel and Egypt as a first step to-                |

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OUT COREU TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification  
CONFIDENTIEL

Page  
2

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2 wards that goal. Similarly they welcome the Israeli withdrawal  
3 from Sinai as the first step towards the realisation of the call  
4 for withdrawal contained in Security Council Resolution 242, which  
5 specifically declared inadmissible the acquisition of territory  
6 by war, and they believe that the international community has a  
7 duty to play its part, as necessary and with the agreement of the  
8 parties concerned, in peace arrangements in the Middle East.  
9 They are ready to participate also in such arrangements in the  
10 other territories currently occupied in the context of Israeli  
11 withdrawal. They regard their support for the arrangements  
12 associated with Israel's withdrawal from Sinai as quite distinct  
13 from the rest of the Camp David process.

14 4. In addition, the four Governments express their firm support  
15 for the Egyptian Government and people and their belief in the  
16 need for stability and continuity in Egypt. The decision of the  
17 four Governments to participate in the MFO follows from their  
18 policy, as stated in the Declaration issued at Venice in June  
19 1980 and in subsequent statements. This policy, while insisting  
20 on guarantees for the security of the state of Israel, places  
21 equal emphasis on justice for the Palestinian people and their  
22 right to self-determination. It also holds that the PLO must be  
23 involved in the process leading to a comprehensive peace.

24 5. The four Governments state that their participation in the  
25 MFO is based on the understanding that:

26 i) The force exists solely for the purpose of maintaining peace  
27 in Sinai following Israeli withdrawal and thus facilitating that  
28 withdrawal. It has no other role.

29 ii) The force is being established in its present form in the  
30 absence of a UN decision on an international force and its

31 position will be reviewed should such a decision become possible:

32 and (iii) participation by the ~~three~~ <sup>four</sup> Governments in the force  
33 will not be taken either as committing them to or excluding them  
34 from participating in such other international peace-keeping

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OUT COREU TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification  
CONFIDENTIEL

Page  
3

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2 arrangements as have been or may be established in the region.

3 6. The four Governments pledge themselves to support the MFO.

4 They have informed the Governments of Egypt, Israel and the

5 United States that the European contribution to the force is made

6 on the basis described above. For their part the four Govern-

7 ments, with their partners in the Ten, will continue to work for

8 the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East in

9 all ways consistent with the principles to which they hold. ENDS.

10 7. The four Governments hope that the other six Governments

11 will agree to make a statement approving the decision they have

12 taken, so that the contribution may be seen as a step taken with-

13 in the framework of European political cooperation. The pro-

14 posed text of such a statement, agreed amongst the four, is as

15 follows.

16 8. BEGINS. Les partenaires de la France, de L'Italie, des

17 Pays Bas et due Royaume-Uni dans la Communauté Européenne ont

18 été informés par les Gouvernements de ces pays de leur intention

19 de répondre favorablement à la demande des Gouvernements

20 d'Égypte, d'Israël et des États-Unis, de participer à la force

21 multinationale dans le Sinaï.

22 9. Ils approuvent la décision de ces quatre Gouvernements

23 ainsi que les vues qu'ils ont exprimées à cette occasion. Ils

24 considèrent que la participation à la force multinationale est

25 pleinement conforme à la volonté maintes fois exprimée par les

26 dix de faciliter tout progrès en direction d'un règlement global

27 de paix au Moyen-Orient sur la base des principes définis dans la

28 déclaration de Venise. ENDS.

29 10. Comments on the text are requested by 1800 GMT on Tuesday

30 27 October. In the absence of comments the four will proceed on

/// 31 the agreed basis.

// 32 11. The four propose to notify the Governments of the United

/ 33 States, Israel and Egypt of their decision and of the terms of

34 their joint statement before a public announcement is made.

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OUT COREU TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification  
CONFIDENTIEL

Page  
4

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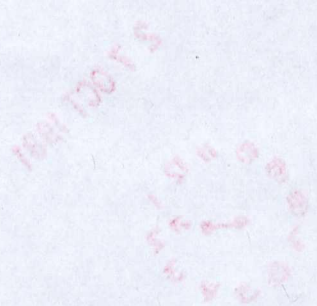
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