

OPS
CE MASTER
Middle East: Situa: PE 11

Prime Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

April 5, 1983

SERIAL No. 44A-83

Dear Margaret:

Thank you for your March 22 message about the Arab League delegation led by King Hussein. I welcome and appreciate your thoughtful comments and support.

I know King Hussein has been struggling long and hard with the decision of how best to take the next step toward our shared goal of peace. His efforts these past months have been a remarkable example of leadership and statesmanship under what I know have been great pressures and difficulties. It is important for him to know he does not and will not stand alone, should he decide to make an historic and bold step toward peace. In this respect, your encouragement to the King is most important.

King Hussein has shared with us his frustrations with the level of support from other Arabs for a decision to join the peace process. We have been in close contact with the key Arab leaders whose support the King feels he must have. We have answered their questions, clarified areas of difficulty, and reaffirmed what my September 1 initiative means and what it does not mean. That I am totally committed to my proposals has been clearly and repeatedly stated. I know that time is important if the present opportunity for progress towards peace is not to wither away. We need to hear the Arabs say unequivocally that they are willing to give peace negotiations a chance to produce what five wars in the last 35 years have not produced and what future wars cannot produce -- stability, dignity, prosperity, and peace for all the Middle East.

With the fullest recognition of the risks and difficulties which accompany the decision to become a partner in peace, I have assured King Hussein of my total support, friendship, and determination to succeed.

Thank you again for your support and efforts to help in this most noble cause.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ron

CONFIDENTIAL