

CONFIDENTIAL

EPS200
CONFIDENTIAL

FM BEIRUT 161145Z FEB
TO ROUTINE F.C.O.

TELEGRAM NUMBER 53 OF 16 FEBRUARY 1982

INFO SAVING UKREP BRUSSELS, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, JEDDA,
DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, CAIRO AND PARIS.

FAHD PLAN AND VENICE DECLARATION.

1. WHEN I SAW ARAFAT ON 15 FEBRUARY, I ASKED HIM HOW HE SAW THE WAY FORWARD AFTER FEZ. WAS THERE ANY FUTURE IN THE FAHD PLAN ? DID HE SEE ANY ROLE FOR EUROPE AT THIS STAGE IN THE LIGHT OF THE VENICE DECLARATION ?

2. ON THE FAHD PLAN HE SAID FIRMLY THAT HE STILL SUPPORTED IT AND WOULD GO ON DOING SO. THE ARABS HOWEVER COULD NOT REALLY GET TOGETHER BEHIND IT UNTIL THE NEXT ARAB SUMMIT WHICH WOULD NOT BE BEFORE JULY. THEY MIGHT SUPPORT IT THEN BUT HE WAS SURE THAT THEY WOULD WANT SOME SORT OF "GUARANTEE". EMPHASIZING THAT AT THIS POINT HE WAS JUST THINKING ALOUD HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN FAYOUR OF IT WOULD DO THE TRICK. HE BRUSHED DOUBTS ASIDE WHEN I SAID THAT I WONDERED WHETHER THE AMERICANS WOULD AGREE. AN ALTERNATIVE WAY FORWARD WAS A GENEVA CONFERENCE SEMI COLON BUT HE WAS VAGUE ON THIS TOPIC.

3. ON THE VENICE DECLARATION AND THE ROLE OF EUROPE HE WAS INSISTENT THAT EUROPE HAD A MOST IMPORTANT, PERHAPS DECISIVE ROLE TO PLAY. UNFORTUNATELY FRENCH STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES HAD LEFT HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN GRAVE DOUBT WHETHER THEY COULD EXPECT ANYTHING FROM EUROPE FOR THE TIME BEING. AVOIDING ANY EXCUSE FOR THE FRENCH I EXPLAINED THAT EUROPEAN POLITICAL CO-OPERATION WAS A NEW AND FRAGILE PLANT. HE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THIS WELL (AS INDEED ANY ARAB SHOULD).

4. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE "LAME DUCK" EFFECT (PARAGRAPH EIGHT OF MY DESPATCH NUMBER 014/1 OF 12 JANUARY). HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THIS AND ADDED THE INTERESTING POINT THAT OFF-YEAR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1982 IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD IMPOSE FURTHER DELAYS ON THE FORMATION OF AMERICAN POLICY.

15. HE WAS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

5. HE WAS ALTOGETHER MORE CONSTRUCTIVE THAN I EXPECTED. HE SPOKE MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER.

6. FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAYING ADDRESSEES.

ROBERTS

[REPEATED AS
REQUESTED]

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

STANDARD
NENAD
MED MAED
NAD
UND
EESD
ECD
WED
RID
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION
ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE

2

CONFIDENTIAL