

Middle East

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GRS 307

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DESKBY 260700 Z

FROM FCO 251645 MARCH 82

TO IMMEDIATE CG JERUSALEM

TELEGRAM NUMBER 13 OF 25 MARCH.

INFO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 260700 BEIRUT, TEL AVIV,  
ROUTINE DAMASCUS, AMMAN, JEDDA, CAIRO, UKMIS NEW YORK  
INFO SAVING WASHINGTON, PARIS, UKREP BRUSSELS

MY VISIT TO ISRAEL: WEST BANK

1. IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS ON THE WEST BANK I HAVE DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH WEST BANK PALESTINIANS. I HAVE THEREFORE ASKED SIR JOHN LEAHY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR A MEETING WITH WEST BANK MAYORS AND OTHER LEADERS DURING MY PROGRAMME IN ISRAEL. THIS WOULD PERHAPS BE MOST EASILY ARRANGED ON THE MORNING OF 1 APRIL FOLLOWING MY OWN VISIT TO THE CONSULATE-GENERAL. SIR JOHN WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE PRESENT. THE PRECISE ARRANGEMENTS ARE LEFT TO YOUR DISCRETION, IN CONSULTATION WITH HMA TEL AVIV. BUT THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN USING A VENUE ON THE WEST BANK ITSELF, BOTH AS A SYMBOL AND TO AVOID A CLASH WITH MY VISIT TO THE CONSULATE-GENERAL. SIR JOHN WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO CATCH UP WITH MY PROGRAMME LATER.

2. WE READILY UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF THE MAYORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO TRAVELLING RERTRICIONS AND THAT A FULLY REPRESENTATIVE GATHERING MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE. YOU SHOULD TRY TO ENSURE THAT INVITATIONS AT LEAST REACH THE THREE DISMISSED MAYORS. OTHERWISE THE MAYORS OF BETHLEHEM AND GAZA AND THE ACTING MAYOR OF HEBRON ARE OBVIOUS CANDIDATES. YOU SHOULD AIM FOR A MAXIMUM ATTENDANCE OF ABOUT SIX.

3. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT BASSAM SHAKAA SENT A MESSAGE TO

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MILES VIA THE ARAB LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE HERE, AL HASSAN, ASKING WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO VISIT THE WEST BANK DURING MY PROGRAMME IN ISRAEL. MILES EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NO AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY. MILES WILL BE INFORMING AL HASSAN OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE MEETING WITH SIR J LEAHY AND INDICATING THAT THIS IS A SIGN OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

CARRINGTON

STANDARD

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