

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 158/87

Top Copy on Soviet Union, Credit Terms, Pt 2

Duty CLERK
cc Master
ops
J. J. J.

I have discussed with the fco (Stephen Lanyon). No further action is needed

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE
TO CABINET OFFICE LONDON
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SECRET VIA CABINET OFFICE CHANNELS WH05384

Soviet Union: Pipeline, Pt 2

DEAR MARGARET:

I MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR JULY 29 LETTER ON THE SUBJECT OF NIGHT BOMB ENGINEERING AND THE CO-STRUCTIVE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH YOU HAVE PLACED OUR DIFFERENCES CONCERNING THE SANCTIONS ISSUE. I AM IN THOROUGH AGREEMENT WITH YOU THAT ON THE BROADER SECURITY CONCERNS POSED BY SOVIET BEHAVIOR AND THE CRISIS IN POLAND WE THINK ALIKE. IN CASES WHERE WE DO DISAGREE, I BELIEVE THAT YOUR LETTER EXEMPLIFIES THE TONE AND SPIRIT WHICH OUGHT TO GUIDE U.S.-U.K. RELATIONS.

Middle East
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LET ME ADD HOW MUCH I ALSO APPRECIATED YOUR JULY 29 LETTER AND THE INFORMATION YOU SHARED WITH ME ON YOUR TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN. THESE VIEWS PROVIDED TIMELY BACKGROUND FOR MY OWN MEETING LAST WEEK WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AMRAL HASSAN ALI, AND WITH HIS ISRAELI COUNTERPART, FOREIGN MINISTER YITZCHAK SHARIP, ON TODAY.

THE TALKS WITH ALI WERE USEFUL, ALTHOUGH THE EGYPTIANS HAVE HARDENED THEIR POSITION TOWARD ACCEPTING PLO FIGHTERS. ALI'S PRESENTATION WAS SIMILAR TO HIS EXCHANGE WITH FRANCIS PYLE, AS HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO SEIZE THIS MOMENT TO RESOLVE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. WHILE THERE IS SOME EGYPTIAN THINKING ON THE MIDDLE EAST IS SIMILAR TO THE U.S. AND BRITISH, WITH ALI'S VIEW THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS SHOULD BE EXPLICITLY LINKED TO THE BROADER PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

FOR THE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHARIP, I MADE CLEAR TO HIM HOW STRONGLY WE FEEL ABOUT THE DISPROPORTIONATE AND DISCRIMINATE ISRAELI ATTACKS ON WEST BEIRUT. I ALSO EMPHASIZED OUR OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI PRESSURE TACTICS INCLUDING THE CUT-OFF OF FOOD, WATER, ELECTRICITY AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. SHARIP REITERATED THE ISRAELI POSITION THAT SUCH TACTICS WERE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ENSURE PLO WITHDRAWAL. I STRESS THAT SUCH ACTS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONTINUING LEVELS OF EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE, WERE MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PHIL HARBIZ TO EXTRACT THE PLO BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS AND THAT THIS COULD HAVE THE GRAVEST POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL.

CLEARLY THE ROAD AHEAD REMAINS FRAUGHT WITH DANGER, BUT

I SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO WORKING AS HARD AS WE CAN TO BRING ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PLO FROM LEBANON, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER FOREIGN FORCES, AND A RETURN TO CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PERMIT THE LEBANESE TO FUNCTION AS AN INDEPENDENT PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT.

SINCERELY,

RON

THE RIGHT HONORABLE
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