

Middle East

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PP ALGIERS

GRS 202

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FM FCO 151655Z FEB 83

TO PRIORITY ALGIERS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 25 OF 15 FEBRUARY

PNC

1. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL LORD CHELWOOD HAS TOLD US THAT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS BEING TELEXED TO ARAFAT, PROBABLY ON 15 FEBRUARY: BEGINS THE OFFICERS OF THE CONSERVATIVE, LABOUR AND LIBERAL MIDDLE EAST COUNCILS WITH SUBSTANTIAL MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FULLY SUPPORT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO STATEHOOD. THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD GREATLY ASSIST THE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THIS IF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOLLOWED YOUR EXAMPLE AND MADE AN UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT ACCEPTING THE REALITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE WOULD UNDERSTAND IF SUCH A DECLARATION REFLECTED A MAJORITY VIEW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND WAS MADE CONDITIONAL ON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

WE ARE FIRMLY OF THE OPINION THAT SUCH A DECLARATION ON THE 14 FEBRUARY WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT PALESTINIAN ASPIRATIONS AND THAT ANY FURTHER EQUIVOCATION ON THIS ISSUE WOULD ONLY DAMAGE THEM.

WE STRONGLY FAVOUR AND ARE URGING TOP LEVEL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE PLO ENDS.

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