

E.R.

cc Mr. Jackling

Prime Minister

MR. COLES

MS

THE PALESTINE NATIONAL CONGRESS

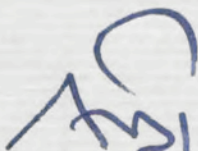
These are my very preliminary comments on the outcome of the Algiers meeting, based on the first report from the Embassy in Algiers (Algiers telegram number 59) and on comments in the serious British press.

As expected, the PNC has emerged with a multi-coloured set of lights flashing and no clear message. However, the tentative consensus is that Arafat has got enough leeway to enable him to pursue his discussions with King Hussein. In parallel, the PLO are starting a campaign to try to persuade the Americans to add the word "self determination" to the Reagan plan. They will obviously be unsuccessful in this.

On the positive side, although the PNC has come out in favour of continuation of the "armed struggle" against Israel, they have accepted the Fez Declaration with its implicit recognition of the existence of Israel. They have also "condemned in the strongest terms terrorism and international terrorism" qualifying this inevitably with reference to "American and Israeli terrorism".

If there is further trouble about the composition of the Arab League Delegation to London, this may arise from a PLO claim that they have now met our two conditions, namely recognition of Israel (implicit in Fez) and an outright condemnation of terrorism.

I have no doubt that the FCO will be sending across a more profound analysis of the Algiers meeting in the next few days.



A.D. PARSONS  
24 February 1983