

SUBJECT

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 33^A/83

US Declassified

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OO WASHINGTON
GRS 465
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FM FCO 221300Z MAR 83
TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 472 OF 22 MARCH
INFO PRIORITY CAIRO, JEDDA, AMMAN, BEIRUT, TEL AVIV (PERSONAL FOR
AMBASSADORS)
ARAB/ISRAEL

Mr 27
f.a.

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO PRESIDENT REAGAN:

BEGINS. DEAR RON, THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT MESSAGE ABOUT THE
MIDDLE EAST. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE CARE YOU HAVE TAKEN TO
CONSULT US IN RECENT MONTHS OVER A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT FIND IT HELPFUL TO KNOW THE OUTCOME OF
THE VISIT TO LONDON LAST WEEK BY AN ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION LED
BY KING HUSSEIN. THEIR VISIT HAD BEEN LONG DELAYED BECAUSE OF
DIFFICULTIES ABOUT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION BUT WE STOOD FIRM
ON OUR REFUSAL TO RECEIVE A PLO OFFICIAL AND IN THE END THEY
ACCEPTED THIS.

THE DELEGATION'S FORMAL MESSAGE TO US WAS THAT THE FEZ
PROPOSALS ARE STILL ON THE TABLE AND THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE
CONCLUSIONS OF THE RECENT MEETING OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL
COUNCIL SHOULD BE SEEN IN A POSITIVE LIGHT.

BUT IT WAS THEIR UNDERLYING MOOD WHICH STRUCK ME AND I
WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE FLAVOUR OF IT. THEY BELIEVE THAT THERE
IS VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT IF THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESS
TOWARDS PEACE IS NOT TO WITHER AWAY. INEVITABLY, IT IS TO YOU THAT
THEY LOOK. THEY SEEK EVIDENCE THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO PUT
PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO ENGAGE IN THE PROCESS. THE PALESTINE
PROBLEM IS THEIR FIRST PRIORITY BUT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE STRENGTH
OF AMERICAN RESOLUTION WILL BE TESTED BY YOUR SUCCESS OR OTHER-
WISE IN OBTAINING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON WITHOUT
UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS BEING IMPOSED.

I FOUND KING HUSSEIN ANYTHING BUT OPTIMISTIC. HE TOLD ME
PRIVATELY THAT HE IS NOT GETTING THE SUPPORT HE NEEDS FROM THE

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LEADING ARAB COUNTRIES. AND HE IS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT ARAFAT WILL MOVE FAR ENOUGH TO ENABLE HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE TALKS. HE BELIEVES THAT WE HAVE GOT INTO A VICIOUS CIRCLE. THE ARAB WORLD IS WAITING FOR A CLEAR SIGNAL OF AMERICAN DETERMINATION AND EVEN-HANDEDNESS WHILE YOU ARE WAITING FOR A CLEAR SIGNAL FROM THEM THAT THEY ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE.

I KNOW HOW COMPLEX THE SITUATION IS BUT I HOPE YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO DEMONSTRATE AGAIN TO THE ARAB WORLD THAT YOU ARE TOTALLY COMMITTED TO YOUR PROPOSALS AND THAT, IF THEY PLAY THEIR PART, YOU WILL DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PUSH THEM FORWARD.

IF YOU COULD TELL THE SAUDIS AND OTHERS HOW, ONCE THE WAY AHEAD IS CLEAR, YOU PROPOSE TO START THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT A MAJOR FIGURE IN YOUR ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE AN EARLY ROUND OF VISITS TO THE CAPITALS CONCERNED, I THINK THEY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED. THEY NEED THIS OR SOME OTHER DEFINITE SIGN THAT YOU ARE ACTIVELY PLANNING FOR PROGRESS ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. I MAKE THIS PERSONAL SUGGESTION ONLY BECAUSE WE WANT TO HELP IN EVERY WAY WE CAN. WE ARE RIGHT BEHIND YOU. BEST WISHES, MARGARET. ENDS.

PYM

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