



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 October 1985

cc: FCO RM
File

Dear Michael

I was pleased to have the chance to see you and your colleagues last week and discuss the thinking behind our invitation to a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation to visit London. You asked me to send you a further letter clarifying the implications of this for the Government's attitude to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

As I said in my earlier letter to you, the invitation to the joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation is not an invitation to the PLO. Nor does it signify a change in our attitude to that organisation. We do not recognise the PLO's claim to be the "sole legitimate representative" of the Palestinians. Nor do we propose to grant the PLO or its representatives any official status.

We continue to believe that the Palestinians should be associated with any negotiations between the parties to the Arab/Israel dispute through their own chosen representatives. But if the PLO are to be associated with the negotiations they like all the other parties must be ready to commit themselves unambiguously to finding a solution by peaceful means and to the renunciation of terrorism. They must make clear that they are ready, in the context of a negotiated settlement, to accept the right of all states in the area, including Israel, to secure existence.

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I believe this view is shared by the leaders of moderate Palestinian opinion. Our decision to receive a delegation in London is intended to strengthen the resolve of moderate Palestinians to make progress in the direction so courageously mapped out by King Hussein.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Shalita
