

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

25 March 1986

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

The Prime Minister has noted Tel Aviv telegram no. 67 which suggests that the Israeli Government is considering how to use her visit to Israel to advance the peace process.

We shall of course wish to avoid the Prime Minister's visit being used simply to promote Israeli ideas or to give the appearance that we act as messengers for the Israelis (a role which is very adequately filled by others). This points to a need to work up ideas of our own and identifiably so which we could put both to the Israelis and to King Hussein. These ideas might in practice be in the areas identified by the Israelis - the economic field, devolution, an international conference - but must clearly originate with us. Even if our ideas have little chance of being realised in practice, they could be useful in helping to fill the current vacuum, by creating the impression that some way forward was under discussion.

I think that the Prime Minister would welcome some proposals which she could discuss with the Foreign Secretary.

C.D. POWELL

R.N. Culshaw, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

# CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 400

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TEL AVIV

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELNO 087

OF 211300Z MARCH 86

INFO ROUTINE AMMAN, WASHINGTON, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM

ARAB/ISRAEL: PEACE PROCESS

SUMMARY

1. ISRAELI INTEREST IN USING MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS.

DETAIL

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S POLITICAL ADVISER TOLD ME ON 19 MARCH THAT DURING MR PERES BRIEF TRIP TO THE U.S. AT THE END OF MARCH HE HOPED TO FIRM UP A RANGE OF IDEAS FOR ACTION TO BE PUT TO THE KING. NOVIK CLAIMED THAT MR SHULTZ WAS "DEFINITELY INTERESTED" IN EARLY ACTION. NOVIK SAID THERE WERE IDEAS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, DEVOLUTION AND HELP OVER THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

3. I SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW PROGRESS COULD BE MADE TILL THE KEY ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION WAS SETTLED. NOVIK SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION WAS THE KEY ISSUE AND COULD NOT BE DODGED. PERES HAD NO INTENTION OF WASTING THE NEXT 6 MONTHS. HE WOULD PURSUE HIS POLICIES REGARDLESS OF THE ROTATION.

4. NOVIK CONTINUED THAT BY THE TIME MRS THATCHER CAME HERE AT THE END OF MAY THE SITUATION WOULD BE CLEARER AND HER OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH KING HUSSEIN MIGHT LEAD TO SOME NEW MOVE FOLLOWING HER TALKS WITH PERES IN JERUSALEM. I SIMPLY SAID THAT AS THE ISRAELIS WOULD KNOW FROM THE TALKS IN LONDON HMG WERE ALWAYS READY TO CONSIDER WHAT THEY COULD DO TO HELP THE PARTIES TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

- 1 -

/s.

# CONFIDENTIAL

# CONFIDENTIAL

5. I ASKED MY U.S. COLLEAGUE ABOUT THIS ON 21 MARCH. PICKERING THOUGHT WASHINGTON WAS STILL IN A PROCESS OF POLICY REAPPRAISAL TO WHICH THE PERES VISIT WOULD CONTRIBUTE. HE DID NOT SEE IT AS LIKELY TO RESULT IN MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES. BEARING IN MIND KING HUSSEIN'S CURRENT RATHER LONG TERM APPROACH TO THE CENTRAL ISSUES ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON WAS FOCUSED MORE ON DEVOLUTION-RELATED ISSUES.

6. PICKERING SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME INTEREST IN THE SINIORA/EBAN IDEAS OF APRELIMINARY MEETING WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS BETWEEN JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELIS (JERUSALEM TELNO 58), BUT IT WAS NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHAT WEIGHT SUCH IDEAS CARRIED ON THE ARAB SIDE, OR WHETHER THE KING WAS INTERESTED. THEY DIFFERED VERY LITTLE FROM PROPOSALS MADE BY THE ISRAELIS IN THE PAST WHICH HAD BEEN REJECTED AS DIRECT TALKS BY ANOTHER NAME.

SQUIRE

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

MIDDLE EAST  
LIMITED

NENAD  
MED  
NAD  
SOVIET D  
PLANNING STAFF  
UND  
ECD(E) (POCO UNIT)  
NEWS D  
INFO D  
PUSD  
SED  
SCD  
DEFENCE D

PS  
PS/MR RENTON  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
MR GOODALL  
SIR D MIERS  
MR O'NEILL  
MR RATFORD  
MR LONG  
MR MACINNES  
MR BARRINGTON

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
ARAB/ISRAEL

- 2 -  
CONFIDENTIAL