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From: E A J Fergusson

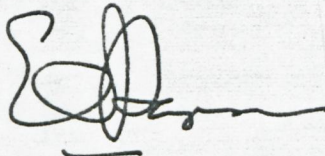
Date: 29 May 1986

Mr Nixon, NENAD, W 97

ISRAEL'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE EC(E)

1. As we were standing at Ben Gurion Airport before departure, the Israeli Ambassador said that he had been asked by Prime Minister Peres to raise the question of Israel's membership of the EC(E), which Mr Peres had not had time/had forgotten to do during his talks with Mrs Thatcher (see also Tel Aviv telegram No 205 of 16 May which foreshadowed an approach).

2. I replied on the lines of the brief but said that I should ensure that Mr Peres' views were passed on. We ought to give a low key reply, perhaps through Mr Squire via Mr Nimrod Novikh of Mr Peres' office, who with Mr Powell alone was present at the various Prime Ministerial talks.



E A J Fergusson

cc:
Sir D Miers
TRED
Mr Powell, No 10

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FM TEL AVIV
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 205
OF 161230Z MAY 86
INFO ROUTINE UKMIS GENEVA

*copy to Mr Ferguson
Sir O Miers*

ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP OF ECE

*R + pa
Israel / Int Org*

1. THE DIRECTOR FOR UN AFFAIRS AT THE MFA SPOKE TO ME AT AN INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION ABOUT THE ISRAELI WISH TO JOIN THE ECE. ELIASHIV REFERED TO HIS TALK WITH UKMIS GENEVA (DAVID MOSS7S MINUTE OF 24 APRIL). HE SAID THEY HAD BEEN PROMISED SUPPORT BY FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY AS WELL AS THE U.S. AND THE SCANDINAVIANS. HE HOPED BRITAIN WOULD ALSO SUPPORT THEIR APPLICATION. IT WAS A MANIFEST INJUSTICE THAT THEY HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE WEST ASIA GROUP.

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2. I SAID OUR CONCERN WAS TO SEE THE ECE CONTINUE ITS USEFUL WORK. WE DID NOT WANT IT DISRUPTED BY IRRELEVANT POLITICAL ARGUMENTS. SUBJECT TO THAT WE WERE FIRMLY IN FAVOUR OF UNIVERSALITY AND HAD SUPPORTED ISRAEL'S CANDIDATURES IN A WIDE RANGE OF UN BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS. THE ATTITUDE OF THE EAST EUROPEANS WOULD ALSO BE RELEVANT. OUR AUTHORITIES IN LONDON WERE AWARE OF THE ISRAELI INTEREST AND I UNDERTOOK TO REPORT HIS DEMARCHE.

3. ELIASHIV SAID IT MIGHT WELL BE RAISED BY THE ISRAELI SIDE DURING THE PRIME MINISTER' VISIT TO ISRAEL AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

SQUIRE

MINIMAL

TRED
NENAD

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