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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 May 1986

Dear Robert,

PALESTINIAN COMMENT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS IN ISRAEL

It is evident from a number of telegrams from our posts in the Middle East that there is some misunderstanding of the Prime Minister's remarks at her press conference in Jerusalem on at least two issues. It would be helpful if you could send out early guidance to posts to counteract any misapprehension.

The first is the suggestion that the Prime Minister's support for "some kind of federation with Jordan" rules out self-determination for Palestinians.

The position is that the Prime Minister has not dismissed the principle of self-determination. She advocated "some kind of federation" as the most realistic of the options currently under consideration for achieving Palestinian self-determination (it being evident that both Israel and Jordan are opposed to an independent Palestinian state). The Prime Minister's phrase includes the possibility of confederation which the PLO and the Jordanians themselves espoused in February 1985.

The second point which needs to be countered is that the Prime Minister's support for the election of Mayors and of Deputies to the Jordanian Parliament from the West Bank rules out the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Prime Minister has not ruled out association of PLO with negotiations. But it cannot play a direct role in negotiations until it accepts Resolutions 242 and 338, recognises Israel's right to exist, and renounces violence. If it cannot make these commitments, the search will continue for alternative representatives for the Palestinians.

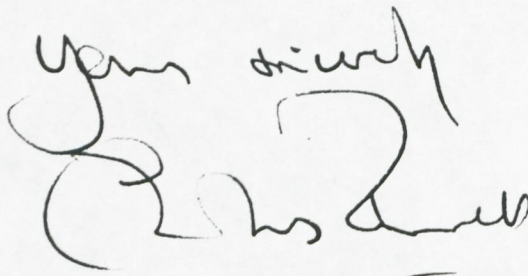
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In general posts could point out that we are not narrowing or subtracting from our previous positions but trying to build on them in a practical way in order to help restore momentum towards peace negotiations.

BF || It would be helpful if guidance on these two points could be sent out as rapidly as possible.

Yours sincerely


(Charles Powell)

Robert Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS AT HER PRESS CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM. IN PARTICULAR, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT HER SUPPORT FOR 'SOME KIND OF FEDERATION WITH JORDAN' RULES OUT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIANS AND THAT HER SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTION OF MAYORS AND OF DEPUTIES TO THE JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT FROM THE WEST BANK RULES OUT THE PLO AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. YOU AND OTHER RECIPIENTS OF THIS TELEGRAM SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO COUNTER ANY SUCH MISAPPREHENSIONS.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT DISMISSED THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. SHE ADVOCATED 'SOME KIDG OF FEDERATION' AS THE MOST REALISTIC OF THE OPTIONS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR ACHIEVING PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION (IT BEING EVIDENT THAT BOTH ISRAEL AND JORDAN ARE OPPOSED TO AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE). THE PRIME MINISTER'S PHRASE INCLUDES THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFEDERATION WHICH THE PLO AND THE JORDANIANS THEMSELVES ESPOUSED IN FEBRUARY 1985.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT RULED OUT ASSOCIATION OF PLO WITH NEGOTIATIONS. BUT IT CANNOT PLAY A DIRECT ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL IT ACCEPTS RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, RECOGNISES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, AND RENOUNCES VIOLENCE. IF IT CANNOT MAKE THESE COMMITMENTS, THE SEARCH WILL CONTINUE FOR ALTERNATIVE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

4. YOU MAY ALSO POINT OUT THAT WE ARE NOT NARROWING OR SUBTRACTING FROM OUR PREVIOUS POSITIONS BUT TRYING TO BUILD ON THEM IN A PRACTICAL WAY IN ORDER TO HELP RESTORE MOMENTUM TOWARDS PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

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ISKAGL PM'S UIST 3/86



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 May 1986

Charles Powell Esq
No 10 Downing Street

Dear Charles

*Prime Minister
These two clarifications are
important & will not upset the
Acheson Israelis. Agree with
we should make them?*

PALESTINIAN COMMENT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS IN ISRAEL

Posts need guidance to correct some of the misapprehensions which are now appearing (eg Tunis telno 136). The points of criticism basically boil down to two (A and B below) and I should be grateful for your agreement that we may brief posts to rebut what has been said on the lines indicated.

Have virtually ruled out independence & other kind of state - not

A. Prime Minister's support for "some kind of federation with Jordan" rules out self-determination for Palestinians.

The Prime Minister has not dismissed principle of self-determination. She advocated "some kind of federation" as the most realistic of options currently under consideration for achieving Palestinian self-determination. The phrase includes the possibility of confederation which the PLO and Jordanians themselves espoused in February 1985.

B. Prime Minister's support of election of Mayors and Deputies to Jordanian Parliament from West Bank, rules out the role of PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

✓ The Prime Minister has not ruled out association of PLO with negotiations. But it cannot play a direct role in negotiations until it accepts Resolutions 242 and 338, recognises Israel's right to exist, and renounces violence. If it cannot make these commitments, the search will continue for alternative representatives for the Palestinians.

Yes even

David

David Miers

*A.S. If we could say that your comments added to, not subtracted from Venice, that would also be helpful, though not essential. Agree?
27/5/86*