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Zia Mubarek
A nice letter from
Dakar.
CO 27/1
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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**

SERIAL No. 157A1/90
subject cc MASTER
cc OPS

TRANSLATION

*The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher,
The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*

Your Excellency,

I have received with deep appreciation your letter of 6th March, 1990, which was carried to me by H.E. Mr. Peter Morrison, Minister of State at the Department of Energy. At the beginning, I would like to thank you for your friendly gesture of acquainting me with the position of your government on the question of the immigration of Soviet Jews to the Occupied Arab Territories, and its excellent initiative of urging the European Community to issue its statement on this matter on 20th February, 1990.

The balanced constructive position announced by you personally to the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 18th February, 1990, and the E.C. statement of 20th February issued as a result of Britain's initiative have met with our full satisfaction and appreciation and have reflected the consensus of the international community by asserting the principles of exchange of land for peace, illegitimacy of Jewish settlement in the Occupied Arab Territories and inadmissibility of having Soviet Jews practicing their right to emigrate from the Soviet Union at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people to their territory and homeland.

The Ministerial Council of the Arab League, in a resolution on the subject passed in Tunis on 12th March, has welcomed the positive positions adopted by the European Community, the Islamic Conference Organisation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the



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Organisation of African Unity, the north European countries and other friendly states concerning the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Palestine and their settlement in the Occupied Arab Territories. The Council also emphasized that this immigration constitutes an aggression against the rights of the Arab Palestinian people to their territory and homeland, a threat to Arab national security and a violation of the principles of international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, since the right of any person must not be exercised at the expense of another person and a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 which requires the occupying authority to refrain from deporting the indigenous population or settling the population of the occupying authority in their territory. The Arab League Council further urged the international community to put an end to this illegitimate immigration and secure all national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right of repatriation in accordance with U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948.

Your Excellency

You have pointed out in your speech to the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 18th February, that obstacles to a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue would become much worse if Israel were to find homes for Jews from the Soviet Union by settling them in the Occupied Territories. Indeed, efforts for a peaceful settlement have, in the last few days, gravely foundered due to the intransigence of the Israeli Prime Minister and his adamant refusal to respond positively to the United States proposals which only aim to implement his own plan for elections in the Occupied Arab Territories. There is no doubt that the steps announced by the Israeli government to create more Jewish settlements in the



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occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem, is one of the main reasons for this intransigence with a view to procrastinate and gain time so that the Israeli government can carry out its settlement plans. You may agree with me that such serious developments, make it necessary to accelerate the efforts to address the question of Soviet Jewish immigration and, simultaneously, move the peace efforts to their desired end of reaching a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of relevant U.N. resolutions, mainly the Security Council resolutions Nos. 242 and 338. The alternative of failing to do so could only be an explosion of violence and extremism with incalculable consequences.

In pursuance of the principle of constant consultation between us, the basis of which we laid down during our latest meeting in London on 7th February, and in view of our conviction in the constructive and important role which the friendly United Kingdom can play in this connection, because of its distinguished international stature and its position as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, I deemed it fit to brief you of my views on this extremely grave matter, hoping that your government will exert its best efforts for the issuance of a U.N. Security Council resolution responding to the consensus of the international community on the need to ban settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the Occupied Arab Territories. I also agree with the view expressed by you during our latest meeting in London concerning the importance of consulting with President George Bush on this matter during your forthcoming visit to the United States. I hope that you will use your good offices to urge the U.S. administration to support the idea of having such a resolution taken by the U.N. Security Council, and to intensify its endeavours with



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the parties concerned, especially Israel, to push forward the efforts for a comprehensive peace settlement so that peace and stability could prevail in the Middle East.

While taking this opportunity to express once again my deep pleasure with our latest London meeting and the chance it provided me to know your valuable views on a host of international and regional issues of mutual concern, I would like also to commend the high level which the British-Qatari relations have attained and look forward to more consultation and exchange of views between us to serve the best interests of our two friendly countries.

Please accept Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Yours sincerely

*Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani
Amir and Prime Minister of
the State of Qatar*

*Diwan Amiri
18th March 1990.*

MIDDLE EAST: Situation
Pt 20





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10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Private Secretary

27 March 1990

AMIR OF QATAR

Thank you for your letter of 27 March enclosing the Amir of Qatar's reply to the Prime Minister's letter of 6 March. I agree that no further reply is needed and that you should tell the Qatari Embassy that the Prime Minister has seen the letter and asked for her thanks to be conveyed to the Amir.

C. D. POWELL

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

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 March 1990

John Charles

Amir of Qatar

I enclose the Amir of Qatar's reply to the Prime Minister's letter of 6 March. The reply deals almost entirely with the settlement of Soviet Jews in the Occupied Territories, which was the substance of the Prime Minister's letter.

We see no need to reply. If you agree, we shall tell the Qatari Embassy (and Mr Boyce in Doha) that the Prime Minister has seen the letter and asked that her thanks be sent to the Amir.

Yours ever

R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
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