



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 September 1990

Dear Charles,

CD 7/2

Thank you for your letter of 31 August. *hap*

In the event, the emissary (M. Charfi) saw President Mitterrand on 2 September but then had to return at short notice to Tunis, without coming to London.

The Tunisian Embassy have now told us that their Deputy Foreign Minister, Ben Yahya, intends to be in London on 10 September on his way back to Tunis from New York and Washington; and that he would like to see the Prime Minister or an FCO Minister if she is not available. He will not be bringing a special message.

We do not think a call on the Prime Minister is justified. Mr Waldegrave has agreed to see him instead (they met earlier in the year when Ben Yahya came to London as a guest of government). In view of Ben Yahya's visit, we see no need for a message from the Prime Minister to President Ben Ali, as you suggested. Mr Waldegrave will make clear to Ben Yahya the need for more robust Tunisian support for sanctions and the western position in general.

S L Gass
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(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

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