



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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*Her Charles*

Iraq/Kuwait: Tunisian Proposals

The Tunisians, like other ambivalent Arabs, are touting proposals for an "Arab solution" to the Iraq/Kuwait crisis. A special envoy from President Ben Ali came to London on 10 September to canvass support for Tunisian ideas, which are set out in the enclosed message from the President to the Prime Minister. These are unacceptable in various respects. We think it would be right to hit them firmly on the head before they obtain a spurious credibility.

I enclose a draft reply to President Ben Ali.

*Jews ever,  
S L Gass*

(S L Gass)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

HE Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali

10/9/17

Draft Letter From: The Prime Minister

To: The Tunisian Prime Minister

I have received the letter which your special envoy, Mr Ben Yahya, delivered to Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, on 10 September.

*in Britain* I must tell you <sup>of</sup> the considerable disappointment felt <sup>here</sup> at the Tunisian Government's equivocal response to the unjustified, illegal and brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In our view there is only one proposal that can bring peace and that is for Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from the territory of the independent Arab country which it has overrun by force and purported to annex. The legitimate Ruling Family of Kuwait, <sup>which must be</sup> once it has been restored to power in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions, <sup>it is wrong to let</sup> will be able to decide what arrangements <sup>how it proceeds</sup> it wishes to make for the conduct of government and whether it wishes to negotiate fresh bilateral understandings with Iraq. <sup>both in respect of Kuwait, internal affairs & its relations with its neighbours. There can</sup> But it is quite <sup>be no possible justification for suggesting</sup> unacceptable to suggest that Iraq should obtain <sup>be</sup> the reward of a change of system in Kuwait as the result of its aggression, <sup>or very surprised with a</sup>

<sup>the United States which is a member of the United Nations</sup> At a time when great efforts have been made to <sup>improve - subscribers</sup> thicken up relations between the United Kingdom and Tunisia, and between the European Community and the Arab Maghreb Union, I must express my concern to ~~Your Excellency~~ that Tunisia should be canvassing proposals which qualify Resolutions adopted by the Security Council and by the majority of the Arab League. To <sup>put forward</sup> advance ~~peace~~ proposals before Iraq has implemented those Resolutions can only encourage Iraq to <sup>continue to</sup> flout the decisions of the international community.

*the United Nations Charter should make such a suggestion.*