



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

PM

Type for PM's signature

22 December 1980

PM Reply on middle East P.S.
situation

Dear Michael,

Secretary-General of the Arab League

M. Chedli Klibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League has sent the enclosed letter to the Prime Minister through our Embassy in Tunis. You will remember that M. Klibi called on the Prime Minister on 3 September. The Secretary of State believes a reply would be appropriate even though the letter looks as if it may have been addressed to others also.

A reply also provides an opportunity for the Prime Minister to remind the Arab League that Arab moderation would be helpful to all.

I attach a draft reply from the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister agrees we will send the reply through our Embassy in Tunis.

Yours ever,

(P Lever)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

HE M Chedli Klibi
Secretary General
League of Arab States
TUNIS

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 11 December.

I share your concern over the expulsion of the Mayors of Hebron and Halhul. We have made our own concern very clear to the Government of Israel at ministerial level and the European Community is also making a joint demarche in Tel Aviv.

The expulsions and other recent events on the West Bank underline the need for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. As you will have seen from the statement issued at the Luxembourg meeting of the European Council on 2 December, we are determined to step up our activity and to continue to work for a settlement. Over the next few months, the European Community will be working hard to seek the widest possible acceptance of the principles of the Venice Declaration. This will require ~~both~~ a spirit of compromise from Israel. ^{Bur} Progress will _L also depend on the willingness of the Arab side, including the Palestinians, to express their agreement to negotiate a just and permanent solution with Israel.

I believe that 1981 will offer an opportunity, perhaps through the Euro-Arab Dialogue, for the Arab side to take this historic step towards peace.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

I know that the Presidency of the European Community and Lord Carrington will wish to keep in close touch with you throughout 1981. Let us hope that the New Year will be truly a year of peace in the Middle East.

11 DEC. 1980

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جامعة الزيتونة

الأمين العام

9/9437

Excellency,

Once again, Israel stresses its scorn for world opinion and the international will. In point of fact, Israeli authorities continue inexorably their policies of repression and racial discrimination in the Arab occupied territories, subjecting to all forms of exactions the Palestinian people struggling for its freedom and independence. Their latest move was to expel the Mayors of Hebron and Halhoul, Merrs Had Kawasmeh and Mohamed Melhem, from their country, despite all U.N. resolutions pertaining to this issue, the repeated injunctions of the N.U. Secretary General, and the pressing pleas of the international community.

Non content with this utter violation of human rights, Israeli authorities resort now to massive arrests, closing down of schools and universities, and a showdown of unspeakable violence to repress popular demonstrations organised everywhere in the occupied territories in protest against the deportation of two of their elected mayors who are being denied the most elementary rights that every constitution throughout the world recognizes : the right for every citizen to live in his country.

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As I bring these exactions to your attention, it honours me to call upon your influence so as to put an end to such practices as are condemned by international law and rejected by the most basic moral principles.

Please, accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Chedli KLIBI

Secretary General

League of Arab States

Her Excellency Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of Great Britain

LONDON