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Embassy



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PRIME MINISTER

SUBJECT

10 DOWNING STREET

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T.145/82

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THE PRIME MINISTER

19 July 1982

Dear Mr. President

Thank you for your message, which your Ambassador delivered on 8 July. I fully share your alarm at the tragic events in the Lebanon. We in Britain have also been appalled by the civilian casualties and the widespread destruction.

We and our partners in the Ten have continued to press for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509, in order to prevent further bloodshed. We support the efforts of Mr. Habib to achieve a negotiated solution to the crisis in West Beirut. His efforts seem to hold out the best hopes of a rapid end to the sufferings of that beleaguered city. Priority must then be given to bringing about the emergence of an effective Lebanese Government ruling in peace over the whole of its territory.

The Ten have also taken concrete steps to underline our concern that Israel has so far failed to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions. We have suspended the signature of the second Financial Protocol with Israel and have postponed a Ministerial meeting of the EC/Israel Cooperation Council. We have made it clear that Israel is not receiving any arms supplies from the Ten. We have also been actively providing humanitarian assistance to the innocent victims of this conflict.

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I share your view that the rights of the Palestine people lie at the heart of the problem of a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement. The Heads of Government of the Ten made clear in a statement of 29 June that in our view Israel can only find the security to which she is entitled by satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, with all that this implies.

I assure you that we shall continue to do all we can, in conjunction with all the parties concerned, to bring about an early end to this dangerous conflict, and progress towards a just and lasting peace in the region.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely

Harold Thatcher

His Excellency General Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq