

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 17

*Lebanon*

PS  
PS/MR HURD  
PS/PUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR MOBERLY  
SIR J BULLARD  
HD/NENAD  
HD/MED  
HD/UND  
HD/SEC DEPT  
HD/...

NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
CABINET OFFICE D10

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

PUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

IMMEDIATE

GRS 380

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TUNIS 140912Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 212 OF 14 OCTOBER

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, ALGIERS, AMMAN, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, RABAT,  
TEL AVIV, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON  
INFO SAVING MOSCOW

ADVANCE COPY

PLO

*ant*

1. CHEYSSON HAD A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH ARAFAT IN TUNIS ON 13 OCTOBER. THE PLO REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON AND PARIS WERE PRESENT. ARAFAT ARRIVED FROM AMMAN THAT MORNING. CHEYSSON WAS HERE FOR LESS THAN 24 HOURS AND CONVEYED APOLOGIES FOR NOT HAVING ARRANGED A COMMUNITY BRIEFING.

2. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME AFTER THE MEETING THAT ARAFAT HAD SPENT MOST OF THE TIME TALKING ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON, EXPRESSING ALARM ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEBANESE ARMY AND CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN AND URGING THAT THE FRENCH CONTINGENTS WITH THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND UNIFIL SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE PALESTINIANS WERE PROPERLY PROTECTED. HE HAD, HOWEVER, REITERATED HIS GENERAL

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WERE PROPERLY PROTECTED. HE HAD, HOWEVER, REITERATED HIS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR AMIN GEMAYEL. ACCORDING TO THE AMBASSADOR, ARAFAT HAD BEEN NON-COMMITTAL ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN AND, IN SPEAKING OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, HAD SAID LITTLE MORE THAN THAT HE STOOD BY THE FEZ SUMMIT RESOLUTION. HE HAD NOT ASKED FOR FRENCH OR EUROPEAN INTERVENTION WITH THE US OR ISRAEL.

3. IN A PRESS STATEMENT, CHEYSSON SAID THAT HIS INTERVIEW WITH ARAFAT HAD DEALT MAINLY WITH THE POSITION OF PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS IN LEBANON, THAT FRENCH RECOGNITION OF THE PLO HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED, THAT ARAFAT WAS WELCOME IN FRANCE AT ANY TIME, BUT THAT A MEETING BETWEEN ARAFAT AND MITTERRAND WAS NOT ENVISAGED AT PRESENT.

CHEYSSON ALSO SAID THAT FRANCE HAD WARMLY WELCOMED THE RESULTS OF THE FEZ SUMMIT, WHICH HAD SHOWN ALMOST COMPLETE ARAB UNANIMITY AND HAD ACCORDED THE SECURITY COUNCIL A LEADING ROLE IN REACHING A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THE PLO WORKING FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. HOWEVER, THE PLO NEEDED A PROPERLY DISPOSED PARTNER AND ISRAEL HAD SO FAR SHOWN NO SIGN OF BEING READY TO ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

4. ARAFAT TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN FRUITFUL, BUT THAT THE EUROPEAN POSITION ON THE PALESTINE PROBLEM STILL SUFFERED FROM AMERICAN PRESSURE. IN AN EARLIER STATEMENT ON HIS ARRIVAL IN TUNIS, HE SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN INITIATIVE DID NOT TAKE PROPER ACCOUNT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS WITH THE PLO AS THEIR SOLE REPRESENTATIVE. ANSWERING A QUESTION, HE SAID THAT KING HUSSEIN HAD FORMALLY STATED HIS READINESS TO WELCOME ANY PALESTINIAN MILITANT OR FIGHTER IN JORDAN.

5. ARAFAT IS EXPECTED TO CALL ON KING HASSAN IN RABAT BEFORE THE FEZ COMMISSION TEAM LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON. KADDOUMI IS TO REPRESENT THE PLO AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ON 15 OCTOBER.

FCO PSE PASS SAVING TO MOSCOW.

STIRLING

NNNN

SENT /RECD AT 141115ZSP/RD