

Thank you for your message of 4 October about the Palestinian question, and for your kind wishes on the Party Conference.

As you know, we support the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. We shall continue to work for a settlement which embodies this principle, as well as providing security for all states in the region including Israel. Following the tragic events in Beirut, there is now wide recognition that the Palestinian people must be enabled to exercise their rights. I was glad to see that the Arab Summit Meeting at Fez reached agreement on a set of objectives for negotiations aimed at a just and lasting peace. President Reagan has put forward proposals also, proposals which we believe are a realistic basis for progress, even if they fall short in some respects of Arab wishes.

Our position on talks with PLO leaders is well known. They now face a period of important decisions. If they can make an absolutely clear statement which accepts Israel's rights as part of a satisfactory comprehensive settlement, and confirms their commitment to the peaceful path to a settlement, that would be a most important step forward.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 October, 1982

Message from Secretary General
of the Arab League

Thank you for your letter of 20 October.

The Prime Minister has approved a modified version of the draft reply to Mr. Klibi. The revised text is enclosed. I should be grateful if you would arrange for its delivery.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

20 October 1982

Prime Minister

*As amended
Yes not*

*Agree to send message
at Flog F to Secretary -
General of Arab League?*

A. J. C. 20/10

Dear John,

Middle East

Thank you for your letter of 12 October enclosing a message from the Secretary General of the Arab League to the Prime Minister.

In our view it would be right for the Prime Minister to reply. I enclose a draft reply in the form of a telegram to Tunis.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

20 OCT 1982



OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby ROUTINE
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TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
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6 FROM FCO ¹⁹ 1800Z OCTOBER 82
7 TO ROUTINE TUNIS
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE
10 1. Chedli Klibi sent the following message to the Prime Minister
11 at the Conservative Party Conference in Brighton ~~last week:~~ ^{ON 4 OCTOBER:}
12 Dear Prime Minister
13 I send you my warmest good wishes on the occasion of your party's
14 conference, and for successful worthwhile deliberations. May I
15 also at this critical time in the affairs of the Middle East -
16 appeal to you to embark upon positive action to elevate the
17 plight of the Palestinian People.
18 This, I believe, can be achieved via realistic implementation
19 of the United Nations Resolutions. This is doubtless the only way
20 in which a just, secure, and lasting peace can be obtained, and
21 I earnestly request of you to exercise your world renowned
22 position to help to obtain the United Nations desires.
23 To achieve this end I hope we can count on your valid help and
24 support, and at the same time urge you to initiate at the
25 earliest possible moment top level talks with the leaders of

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Drafted by (Block capitals) P F RICKETTS					
Telephone number 233 3736					
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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Classification and Caveats

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the PLO who are the sole legitimate representative of the
Palestinian people. This has now been acknowledged by the
other British Political Parties and I trust that your conference
will make a similar pronouncement.

6

Kindest regards your sincerely

7

Chadli Klibi Secretary General League of Arab States Tunis

8

2. Please now pass the following reply from the Prime Minister

9

to Klibi:

10

A Thank you for your message of 4 October about the Palestinian
question, and for your kind wishes on the Party Conference.

12

As you know, we support the right of the Palestinian people
to self-determination. We shall continue to work for a settlement
which embodies this principle, as well as providing security
for all states in the region including Israel. Following
the tragic events in Beirut, there is now wide recognition
than ever that the Palestinian people must be enabled to exercise
their rights. This is an opportunity which the Arab states should
not miss. I was glad to see that the Arab Summit Meeting at
Fez reached agreement on a set of objectives for negotiations
aimed at a just and lasting peace. President Reagan has put
forward proposals also, proposals which we believe are a realistic
basis for progress, even if they fall short in some respects
of Arab wishes.

25

~~The PLO must of course play their part in the search for a
comprehensive settlement. That is why we have said that they
must be associated with negotiations.~~ Our position on talks with
PLO leaders is well known. They ^{now} PLO face a period of important
decisions. If they can make an absolutely clear statement
which accepts Israel's rights as part of a satisfactory
comprehensive settlement, and confirms their commitment to the
peaceful path to a settlement, that would be a most important
step forward. B

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GRS 430
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FROM FCO 221200Z OCTOBER 82
TO ROUTINE TUNIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 80 OF 22 OCTOBER

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No.

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE

1. CHEDLI KLIBI SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE IN BRIGHTON ON 4 OCTOBER:
DEAR PRIME MINISTER

I SEND YOU MY WARMEST GOOD WISHES ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR PARTY'S CONFERENCE, AND FOR SUCCESSFUL WORTHWHILE DELIBERATIONS. MAY I ALSO AT THIS CRITICAL TIME IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE MIDDLE EAST - APPEAL TO YOU TO EMBARK UPON POSITIVE ACTION TO ELEVATE THE PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

THIS, I BELIEVE, CAN BE ACHIEVED VIA REALISTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. THIS IS DOUBTLESS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH A JUST, SECURE, AND LASTING PEACE CAN BE OBTAINED, AND I EARNESTLY REQUEST OF YOU TO EXERCISE YOUR WORLD RENOWNED POSITION TO HELP TO OBTAIN THE UNITED NATIONS DESIRES.

TO ACHIEVE THIS END I HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR VALID HELP AND SUPPORT, AND AT THE SAME TIME URGE YOU TO INITIATE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT TOP LEVEL TALKS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE PLO WHO ARE THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THIS HAS NOW BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE OTHER BRITISH POLITICAL PARTIES AND I TRUST THAT YOUR CONFERENCE WILL MAKE A SIMILAR PRONOUNCEMENT.

KINDEST REGARDS YOUR SINCERELY

CHADLI KLIBI SECRETARY GENERAL LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TUNIS

2. PLEASE NOW PASS THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO KLIBI:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 4 OCTOBER ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AND FOR YOUR KIND WISHES ON THE PARTY CONFERENCE.

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AS YOU KNOW, WE SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A SETTLEMENT WHICH EMBODIES THIS PRINCIPLE, AS WELL AS PROVIDING SECURITY FOR ALL STATES IN THE REGION INCLUDING ISRAEL. FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN BEIRUT, THERE IS NOW WIDE RECOGNITION THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE MUST BE ENABLED TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS. I WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT THE ARAB SUMMIT MEETING AT FEZ REACHED AGREEMENT ON A SET OF OBJECTIVES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. PRESIDENT PEACAN HAS PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS ALSO, PROPOSALS WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE A REALISTIC BASIS FOR PROGRESS, EVEN IF THEY FALL SHORT IN SOME RESPECTS OF ARAB WISHES. OUR POSITION ON TALKS WITH PLO LEADERS IS WELL KNOWN. THEY NOW FACE A PERIOD OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS. IF THEY CAN MAKE AN ABSOLUTELY CLEAR STATEMENT WHICH ACCEPTS ISRAEL'S RIGHTS AS PART OF A SATISFACTORY COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, AND CONFIRMS THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE PEACEFUL PATH TO A SETTLEMENT, THAT WOULD BE A MOST IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD.

PYM

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