

CONFIDENTIAL

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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

I am afraid that this will take
time away from the preparation of your
brochure speech. but you can do it
otherwise. Content?

Yes Mr

27 October 1982

A.J.C. $\frac{28}{10}$

Dear John,

The Moroccan Ambassador called on Sir J Leahy on 25 October to discuss the visit of King Hassan and the Arab League delegation. He said that the date proposed for London, 8 November, would not allow Prince Saud to brief the Gulf Summit as he was now committed to do, and that since Saudi participation was crucial to the whole exercise he must reluctantly ask us to accept a new date for the visit to London. His first bid, 15/16 November, clashes with, among other things, the State Visit of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. The earliest possible date on which the visit could be reinstated appears to be Wednesday 24 November. Subject to the Prime Minister's wishes the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary proposes that the programme take the following form. (The times given are illustrative, but the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be top for questions on that day; Mr Pym and Mr Hurd would not be free to take part until 3.30 pm).

- a. 1545 A Guard of Honour in the FCO quadrangle with the Prime Minister and King Hassan taking the salute.
- b. 1600 A tête-à-tête between the Prime Minister and King Hassan with -
- c. At the same time a meeting between Mr Pym and the Foreign Ministers
- d. 1630 Plenary session
- e. Dinner that evening at 10 Downing Street

The delegation will apparently now consist of all seven members of the Fez 'commission', ie apart from King Hassan, the Foreign Ministers of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, plus the Secretary-General of the Arab League. The Moroccan Ambassador assured us that the question of PLO representation was now 'closed'.

I should be grateful to know if these proposals are acceptable to the Prime Minister. We have made clear to the Moroccans that we hope very much that this latest bid is their last.

Yours ever

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

John Holmes

U.S. of Arab League Delegation - Prime Minister

Secretary

Foreign Office
London

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Sheila
PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 November 1982

VISIT OF KING HASSAN AND THE ARAB
LEAGUE DELEGATION

Thank you for your letter of
27 October. The Prime Minister agrees
to the timetable which you suggest.

A. L. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

John