

CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 November 1982

Contacts with the PLO

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 23 November and has discussed its contents with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

Mrs. Thatcher does not wish to receive at 10 Downing Street an Arab League delegation which includes a representative of the PLO.

She agreed, however, with Mr. Pym that he might receive a delegation, including a representative of the PLO, provided that before the visit took place the PLO formally agreed to certain conditions. The conditions are spelt out in the enclosed draft statement which has been seen and approved by the Prime Minister. You will doubtless now wish to establish whether the delegation, including the PLO, accept the statement.

B/P
I should be grateful to receive in due course a draft reply from the Prime Minister to King Hussein's message on this subject.

6/11
In your letter of 24 November you raised the question of possible changes in the timings of the talks and the dinner on 2 December. I see little difficulty about holding the dinner rather later than has been proposed. But I wonder whether, if in the event Mr. Pym holds a meeting with the delegation, a plenary session will be necessary here. Perhaps we could discuss this again when it is clearer whether or not the visit will go ahead.

John Holmes Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

A. J. COLES

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DRAFT STATEMENT

It has been agreed, on the basis indicated below, that Mr Pym will see, on 2 December, a delegation of the Arab League, consisting of the Foreign Ministers of Jordan, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia and Mr Khalid al Hassan, who is an official of the PLO. The members of the delegation, including the PLO, have confirmed, in the light of the Fez declaration to which they all subscribe, their intention to work for a comprehensive settlement by peaceful means, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law, if Israel is ready to do the same. They confirm their rejection of terrorism in all its forms. They are ready to recognise Israel's right to live in peace and security if Israel is ready to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. The terms of this statement have been agreed by all the parties concerned.