

GRS 230

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FM TUNIS 291350Z NOVEMBER 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 262 OF 29 NOVEMBER

INFO PRIORITY RABAT ALGIERS AMMAN DAMASCUS JEDDA WASHINGTON

INFO ROUTINE UKMIS NEW YORK OTHER ME POSTS PARIS

RABAT TELS NOS 468 AND 469: ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION

1. AGENCY REPORTS FROM RABAT GIVING THE MOROCCAN PRESS STATEMENT ARE CARRIED ON THE FRONT PAGES OF TODAY'S (29 NOVEMBER) TUNISIAN PRESS. THESE REPORTS ALSO GIVE A SUMMARY OF OUR CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING A PLO REPRESENTATIVE, AS PUBLISHED IN THE MOROCCAN NEWSPAPER QUOTE AL ALAM UNQUOTE. THE ONLY COMMENT SO FAR - IN THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY LE TEMPS - CALLS FOR A COMMERCIAL BOYCOTT OF THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT NORMAL RELATIONS COULD BE MAINTAINED WITH THESE COUNTRIES AFTER THEIR REBUFF OF A DECISION TAKEN UNANIMOUSLY BY THE ARAB KINGS AND HEADS OF STATE.

2. THE CANCELLATION OF THE DELEGATION'S VISIT MAY BE RAISED WHILE MR REES IS HERE. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF HE COULD BE FULLY BRIEFED.

3. OMRAN TELEPHONED YESTERDAY TO SAY THAT THE MOROCCAN STATEMENT, WHICH WAS ALSO ON LAST NIGHT'S LOCAL NEWS BROADCASTS, HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THAT THE REACTIONS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FEZ COMMISSION TO OUR PROPOSAL HAD BEEN AS SHARP AS HE HAD FEARED. HE EXPRESSED HIS OWN AND KLIBI'S DISMAY AT THE POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO BRITISH/ARAB RELATIONS AND HE HOPED THAT MEANS COULD BE FOUND OF MITIGATING IT.

4. OMRAN ADDED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEZ COMMISSION WOULD ASSEMBLE IN AMMAN BEFORE GOING TO MOSCOW AND PEKING.

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