

ADVANCE COPY

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

16

IMMEDIATE

PS
PS/MR HURD
~~PS/PUS~~
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
HD/MED
HD/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10

HD/... ..

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CONFIDENTIAL
FM RIYADH 300600Z
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 71 OF 30 NOVEMBER 1982

MS

FROM AMBASSADOR IN RIYADH

MY TELNO 68 : ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO LONDON

1. LORD CARRINGTON, WHO IS IN RIYADH ON G E C BUSINESS, PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER ON 29 NOVEMBER, OF WHICH HE SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE ME AN ACCOUNT.
2. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT KING FAHD WAS EXTREMELY UPSET ABOUT OUR POSITION ON THE PLO. HE HELD A HIGH REGARD FOR THE PRIME MINISTER BUT WAS WORRIED THAT UNLESS THE PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED ARAB/ BRITISH RELATIONS COULD SUFFER CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. HE UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTY WE WERE IN NOW BUT WAS ANXIOUS THAT THE PIECES SHOULD BE PICKED UP OVER A PERIOD.
3. PRINCE SAUD TOLD LORD CARRINGTON THAT EVERYBODY IN THE ARAB WORLD WAS ANGRY AND FELT INSULTED BY OUR DOCUMENT WHICH HAD MADE THE SITUATION MUCH WORSE THAN AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION. PARTICULARLY INSULTING WAS THE DEMAND THAT PEOPLE...

~~THE SITUATION MUCH WORSE THAN AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION.~~ PARTICULARLY
INSULTING WAS THE DEMAND THAT PEOPLE WHO DID NOT PRACTISE
TERRORISM SHOULD RENOUNCE IT.

4. LORD CARRINGTON ASKED WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CANCELLATION (PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT POSTPONEMENT WAS A BETTER WORD THOUGH THE PRESS WERE TALKING OF CANCELLATION) WERE LIKELY TO BE. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE WHOLE FEZ/REAGAN INITIATIVE COULD WELL BE BADLY SET BACK. BY IMPOSING CONDITIONS WHICH EVEN THEY HAD NOT ASKED FOR WE HAD MADE THE AMERICANS MORE DIFFICULT. SIMILARLY THE ISRAELIS, WHO WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO BECOME EVEN MORE INTRANSIGENT.

5. IN CONCLUSION PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT HE FOUND OUR POSITION INEXPLICABLE. AT VENICE WE HAD SAID THAT THE PLO MUST BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. YET WHEN AN ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION HAD WANTED TO COME AND TALK ABOUT PEACE, MANDATED BY THE HIGHEST ARAB AUTHORITY AND CONTAINING ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE PLO ALONGSIDE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVEREIGN ARAB STATES WE HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT IT. IN SO DOING WE HAD REFUSED TO FORWARD THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

6. LORD CARRINGTON UNDERTOOK TO REPORT WHAT PRINCE SAUD HAD SAID TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON HIS RETURN TO THE UK.

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