

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

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NOV 30 1982

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
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PARIS, UKHIS NEW YORK, MOD (DEF SALES).

M.I.P.T. ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO LONDON

1. I ACCOMPANIED LORD CARRINGTON ON HIS COURTESY CALLS ON 30 NOVEMBER ON CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH AND PRINCE SULTAN. THEY BOTH RAISED THE QUESTION OF OUR REFUSAL TO RECEIVE THE PLO DELEGATE EXCEPT ON CONDITIONS.
2. ONCE AGAIN, THE TONE WAS PERPLEXITY AND DISMAY RATHER THAN ANGER. WHEN LORD CARRINGTON, WEARING HIS GEC HAT, ASKED IF SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT INTEND TO BUY MORE DEFENCE EQUIPMENT FROM BRITAIN (E.G. MARCONI RADARS) SULTAN SAID THE SAUDIS WERE ALWAYS PLEASED TO BUY...

WERE ALWAYS PLEASED TO CO-OPERATE WITH BRITAIN SEMI COLON BUT SOMETIMES THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PUT OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF SUCH CO-OPERATION. HE ADDED THAT HE MEANT POLITICAL OBSTACLES: FOR EXAMPLE, OUR ATTITUDE TO THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE.

3. HE THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) THE PLO MAN WOULD HAVE COME TO LONDON AS PART OF A WIDER DELEGATION: RECEIVING HIM IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HAVE CARRIED NO IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY: A SAUDI MINISTER WAS GOING WITH THE DELEGATION TO MOSCOW AND PEKING, WITH WHOM SAUDI ARABIA HAD NO RELATIONS SEMI COLON

(B) THE OBJECT OF THE DELEGATION WAS NOT/NOT TO NEGOTIATE BUT ONLY TO EXPLAIN THE DECISIONS OF THE FEZ SUMMIT SEMI COLON

(C) THE BRITISH WERE RENOWNED FOR THEIR PRAGMATISM AND FLEXIBILITY. IN THE PAST THEY HAD NEGOTIATED (NOT JUST LISTENED TO) TERRORISTS AND OTHERS WHOM THEY DID NOT RECOGNISE: KENYATTA, MAKARIOS, MUGABE SEMI COLON

(D) THE ARABS HAD IN RECENT MONTHS BEEN MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF MODERATION AND DRAWING CLOSER TO THE VENICE DECLARATION IN WHICH THE BRITISH HAD PLAYED SO LARGE A PART. WAS THIS THE TIME TO REJECT THEIR ADVANCES?

4. CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH'S ARGUMENTS WERE NOT SO CLOSELY MARSHALLED, BUT HIS FEELINGS WERE EQUALLY STRONG. IF PROGRESS TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WAS NOT MAINTAINED AND STIMULATED, HE FEARED AN EXPLOSION IN THE AREA. HE WAS ALREADY BEING PRESSED TO SEND HOME THE BRITISH MILITARY MISSION TO THE SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD. PEOPLE WHOM HE KNEW TO BE MODERATE AND PIOUS WERE URGING THE NEED FOR CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION, SINCE THE WEST WAS NOT HELPING.

5. LORD CARRINGTON EXPLAINED THE CONNECTION IN MUCH OF BRITISH OPINION BETWEEN THE PLO AND TERRORISM SEMI COLON BUT HE HOPED TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER NEXT WEEKEND AND WOULD CONVEY TO HER THE VIEWS HE HAD HEARD. BOTH PRINCES SPOKE WITH ADMIRATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER. THE CROWN PRINCE CHARGED LORD CARRINGTON TO CONVEY TO HER HIS WARM GREETINGS AND TO URGE HER TO RESCUE THE AREA FROM THIS NEW CRISIS.