

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

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PM

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/... ..

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

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PUSD (2)
NEWS D
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

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IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

FM KUWAIT.

ADVANCE COPY

020645Z DEC 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 346 OF 2 DECEMBER

AND TO ROUTINE MIDDLE EAST POSTS, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON AND UKMIS
NEW YORK.

VISIT OF ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO LONDON.

1. THE KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAIKH SABAH, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS MEETING WITH LORD CARRINGTON ON 1 DECEMBER TO REGISTER A STRONG PROTEST ABOUT OUR REFUSAL TO RECEIVE A PLO REPRESENTATIVE ON KING HASSAN'S ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO LONDON. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW BRITAIN HAD ALLOWED SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT TO HAPPEN. BRITAIN'S FRIENDS IN THE ARAB WORLD EXPECTED BETTER THINGS OF A COUNTRY WHICH HAD DEEP EXPERIENCE OF THE REGION AND OF ARAB PSYCHOLOGY. HE GREATLY FEARED THAT THIS INCIDENT WOULD USHER IN A PERIOD OF DIFFICULT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND BRITAIN.

2. AT LORD CARRINGTON'S REQUEST I REPLIED WITH A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW ALL THIS HAPPENED. I SUGGESTED THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN AT FAULT HAD WE FAILED TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY SEEKING ARAB AGREEMENT TO A FORM OF WORDS DESIGNED TO PUT THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE INCLUSION OF A PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN THE DELEGATION IN A WIDER CONTEXT.

3. ALTHOUGH THE KUWAIT PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT REFERRED TO THIS SUBJECT IN A EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH LORD CARRINGTON, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SHAIKH SABAH WAS SPEAKING SINCERELY, FOR KUWAIT, AND WITH WHAT SEEMED TO BE GENUINE CONCERN FOR ANGLO-ARAB RELATIONS.

4. YESTERDAYS AL WATAN MENTIONED THE POSSIBLE HOLDING OF AN EMERGENCY ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE IN MID-DECEMBER TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE CONTACTS OF THE 7 MEMBER ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION.

MELHUIH