

SUBJECT

cc Mr. [redacted]



FILE

C.C. Sir A.P.

WJ

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

13 January, 1983

ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION

The problems surrounding the visit of the above delegation were discussed when the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary brought Sir James Craig to call on the Prime Minister this afternoon.

The Prime Minister made it clear that she did not wish to modify her original decision that a delegation containing a representative of the PLO could not be received at the level of Cabinet Minister or above.

It was agreed that for the present we should continue to hope that the solution involving the presence of a former Palestinian Mayor in the delegation would commend itself to the Arabs. If this did not succeed, the Prime Minister was attracted by a suggestion put forward by Sir Anthony Parsons, namely that Professor Walid Al Khalidi, now at Harvard, might be persuaded to be part of the delegation. He had undertaken missions for Arafat in the past. Thus it might be possible to devise a formula whereby the PLO would accept that the Palestinian viewpoint on the delegation would be represented by Al Khalidi, and we could say that he was in no sense a member of the PLO. Careful consideration would have to be given to how this suggestion was handled. It might be desirable to persuade the Saudis or Jordanians to put it forward to the King of Morocco as their own idea.

A. J. COLES

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