



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 January 1983

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Dear Idn,

Arab League Delegation Visit:
Programme

Provided none of the Arab governments involved breaks ranks - which can by no means be taken for granted (you are aware of the latest press reports on Milhem and the PLO) - agreement is likely to be reached soon on a reinstated visit on 7/8 February.

It is clear that for the King at least the programme and protocol arrangements will continue to loom very large (his anger last time was at least as much on protocol grounds, however unreasonable, as about the PLO point). It will be important for us to offer a programme the equal of that discussed last year, key elements of which were set out in your letter of 22 December, namely:

- a) a Guard of Honour;
- b) a tête-à-tête between the Prime Minister and King Hassan;
- c) a plenary meeting with the delegation;
- d) a meal for the delegation.

In addition there would be a meal/call by King Hassan at Buckingham Palace on 8 February (The Queen only returns from Sandringham on 7 February) and, presentation by the King of the complete delegation to The Queen.

The King has now sent us his own suggestions for the programme (Rabat telno 23 enclosed). Essentially he proposes arrival on Sunday 6 February, meetings with the Prime Minister and Mr Pym on 7 February, and meetings with The Queen on 8 February. The King would give a press conference on the morning of 9 February (he seems to envisage staying on for a few days privately). This strikes us a sensible outline; it would in any case help the prospects for a successful visit if we were able to fall in with the King's suggestions as far as possible. We are pursuing arrangements for 8 February separately with the Palace, but it would be helpful

/to have



to have the Prime Minister's views on the programme for 7 February. Our suggested outline would be as follows:

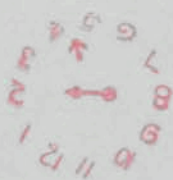
- 1030: Guard of Honour in the FCO Quadrangle for King Hassan and the delegation
- 1045: Plenary session
- 1215: Tête-à-tête with King Hassan
(simultaneous further talks between the rest of the delegation and Mr Pym at No 10)
- 1300 Lunch for the Delegation
for
1315

As you will see, this means an earlier start than that proposed by King Hassan. Our thinking is that we should both give the delegation as a whole a reasonable session (90 minutes including English/Arabic interpretation is not long) and allow King Hassan at least 45 minutes for a tête-à-tête. To obviate the difficulty of either sending the rest of the delegation away at 1215, only to return 45 minutes later for lunch, or having them kicking their heels in No 10, we have suggested separate talks with Mr Pym. This would presumably remove the need for the further session with him at 5 pm suggested by King Hassan. In addition Mr Pym may need to have bilateral meetings with some or all of the delegation other than the King. He would also propose to offer lunch to the rest of the delegation on 8 February while King Hassan is lunching with The Queen. This could help to smooth feelings otherwise perhaps ruffled by a very short meeting with The Queen.

Yours ever

J E Holmes
(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



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B/P FILE RW/PM

4/c: Miss STEPHENS

P.M.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 January, 1983

ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT

Thank you for your letter of 14 January. The Prime Minister would be able to carry out the programme suggested on Page 2 of your letter and we shall clear her diary accordingly as soon as you can confirm that the visit is taking place.

A. J. COLES

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

O.K.

A.S.C. 14.

John

Yes fine -
there is quite a lot
to cancel so
please let me
know if this
goes ahead.

U.

15/11