

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 17



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

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE D10

[STANDARD]  
ADVANCE COPY  
IMMEDIATE

HD/... ..

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

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PUSD (2)

NEWS D

~~SECRET~~

MS

GRS550

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 141500Z

FM RABAT 141235Z JAN 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO (DESKBY 141500Z)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 33 OF 14 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE JEDDA

INFO PRIORITY MIDDLE EAST POSTS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK,  
PARIS, MOSCOW

YOUR TELNO 36: ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT

1. I MET WITH BOUCETTA THIS MORNING AND SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED. I LAID PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE CONCESSION YOU HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAKE WITH REGARD TO MILHEM'S RECEPTION BY THE QUEEN. I SAID THIS REFLECTED OUR DESIRE TO MEET THE KING'S WISHES AND THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE VISIT. BOUCETTA TOOK NOTE AND SAID THE KING WOULD BE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE.

2. I THEN REFERRED TO THE DOUBTS RAISED BY ABU MARWAN'S

~~APPRECIATIVE.~~

2. I THEN REFERRED TO THE DOUBTS RAISED BY ABU MARWAN'S STATEMENT TO REUTERS. (IN FACT, HE SPOKE SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFICALLY TO ME LAST NIGHT WHEN I MET HIM AT A PARTY. HE TOLD ME HE HAD HAD INSTRUCTIONS FROM ARAFAT TO THE EFFECT THAT MILHEM WAS NOT (NOT) ACCEPTABLE AND THAT THE PLO MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION SHOULD BE QADDUMI. ABU MARWAN TOLD ME HE HAD TELEPHONED THIS TO BOUCETTA ON WEDNESDAY MORNING 12 FEBRUARY). I PUT TO BOUCETTA THE TWO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN PARA 2(C) OF YOUR TUR. ON THE FIRST, BOUCETTA WAS QUITE CLEAR. HE SAID THE KING FULLY INTENDED TO BRING MILHEM. IF MILHEM COULD NOT COME, THERE WOULD BE NO PALESTINIAN ON THE DELEGATION. ON YOUR SECOND QUESTION, WHETHER MILHEM WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED, BOUCETTA (NOT SURPRISINGLY) WAS UNABLE TO GIVE ME A POSITIVE ASSURANCE. I REFERRED TO STATEMENTS THAT MILHEM HIMSELF HAD BEEN MAKING TO THE PRESS CASTING DOUBTS ON HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE DELEGATION. BOUCETTA INSISTED THAT WE SHOULD IGNORE ALL THIS FLURRY OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PALESTINIAN FIGURES. WE SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE, AND LEAVE IT TO THE MOROCCANS TO HANDLE THE OTHER ARABS.

3. WE DISCUSSED THE ANNOUNCEMENT. I EXPLAINED OUR REQUIREMENTS. BOUCETTA WAS AT FIRST RELUCTANT TO GO FURTHER THAN THE SHORT STATEMENT YOU ALREADY HAVE (MY TELNO 20). WHEN I PRESSED HIM, HE SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO HAVE THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION DESCRIBED BY COUNTRIES, BUT NOT BY NAMES - THUS QUOTE A DELEGATION LED BY KING HASSAN ETC. AND COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF SAUDI ARABIA ETC. ETC. AND PALESTINE UNQUOTE. I SAID THIS MIGHT PRESENT YOU WITH DIFFICULTIES. I SUGGESTED INSTEAD QUOTE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ETC. ETC. AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE UNQUOTE. BOUCETTA WOULD NOT HAVE THIS BECAUSE QUOTE SOME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT NOT COME UNQUOTE.

4. ~~TO CONCLUDE THE MATTER I SAID I WOULD PUT TWO ALTERNATIVES TO YOU:~~

- (1) EITHER WE AGREE ON A JOINT STATEMENT - WHICH MIGHT PERHAPS BE MADE ON TUESDAY ~~(BT0000000000ZOM)~~

4. TO CONCLUDE THE MATTER I SAID I WOULD PUT TWO ALTERNATIVES TO YOU:

- (1) EITHER WE AGREE ON A JOINT STATEMENT -WHICH MIGHT PERHAPS BE MADE ON TUESDAY (BOUCETTAS AID QUOTE TAKE YOUR TIME UNQUOTE BUT HE WOULD LIKE A STATEMENT

4. TO CONCLUDE THE MATTER I SAID I WOULD PUT TWO ALTERNATIVES TO YOU:

- (I) EITHER WE AGREE ON A JOINT STATEMENT -WHICH MIGHT PERHAPS BE MADE ON TUESDAY (BOUCETTAS AID QUOTE TAKE YOUR TIME UNQUOTE BUT HE WOULD LIKE A STATEMENT BEFORE THE QODS COMMITTEE MEETS ON THURSDAY 20 JANUARY, AND THIS WOULD BE IN OUR INTERESTS TOO) AND WHICH WOULD LIST THE COUNTRIES QUOTE AND PALESTINE UNQUOTE SEMICOLON OR
- (II) THE MOROCCANS WOULD GO AHEAD WITH A UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE LINES OF THE TEXT IN MY TELNO 20.

5. WE BOTH AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER TO HAVE A JOINT STATEMENT. BOUCETTA HAD NO OBJECTION WHATEVER TO OUR SPECIFYING, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS AFTER A JOINT STATEMENT, THAT WE HAD AGREED WITH THE MOROCCANS THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINE WOULD BE MILHEM.

6. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS, IF POSSIBLE BY MONDAY AFTERNOON. BOUCETTA HAS NOW LEFT FOR MARRAKESH, BUT CAN TELEPHONE YOUR REPLY TO HIM.

CAMBRIDGE

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SENT/RECD AT 141341Z SEA/DD