

Prime Minister

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FM FCO 192000Z JAN 83  
TO IMMEDIATE RABAT  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 61 OF 19 JANUARY  
AND TO IMMEDIATE TUNIS

INFO ROUTINE OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS

MY TELNO. 50: ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT

1. YOU MAY TELL THE MOROCCANS, PREFERABLY KING HASSAN, THAT WE SHOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT, SEPARATELY FROM A SUCCESSFUL ARAB LEAGUE VISIT, MR HURD SHOULD MEET QADDUMI. HE WOULD COME TO THE AREA FOR THE PURPOSE. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE DURING THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE ARAB LEAGUE MISSION WHEN MR HURD ALREADY HAS TENTATIVE PLANS TO VISIT NORTH AFRICA AND COULD GO TO TUNIS. SUCH A BILATERAL MEETING, WHICH HAS NO PRECEDENT IN OUR DEALING WITH THE PLO, WOULD BE INTENDED TO SIGNAL THAT THE DIFFICULTIES OVER THE ARAB LEAGUE MISSION ARE BEHIND US AND THAT WE ADHERE TO OUR WELL KNOWN POSITION ON PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE PLO'S ROLE.
2. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE HELPFUL TO THE KING. YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT HE IS AWARE THAT THIS IS A NEW GESTURE ON OUR PART.
3. DEPENDING ON REPORTS FROM SIR A STIRLING YOU MAY AT YOUR DISCRETION TELL THE KING THAT WE MAY REFER TO THIS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PLO IN TUNIS.
4. FOR TUNIS. PLEASE SEEK URGENTLY A CALL ON ARAFAT (OR IF NECESSARY ON THE MOST SENIOR AVAILABLE PLO FIGURE). WE SUGGEST YOU PRESENT THIS AS INTRODUCING EGERTON AND TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON COVERING LEBANON AND JORDAN/PLO. ONE AIM WOULD BE TO MAKE CLEAR TO ARAFAT THAT OUR STAND ON PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE NEED FOR THE PLO TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH NEGOTIATIONS HAS NOT CHANGED. WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS THE AMERICANS FOR PROGRESS, PARTICULARLY ON SETTLEMENTS ETC. YOU SHOULD



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EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE VISIT PROBLEM CAN NOW BE SETTLED ON THE COMPROMISE BASIS UNDER DISCUSSION. WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT CONTACTS WITH THE PLO AT SENIOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL WILL REMAIN A PROBLEM FOR US (IF EXAMPLES WERE NEEDED, YOU COULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THE RECENT CLAIM BY THE PLO THAT THEY CARRIED OUT A BOMB ATTACK ON A BUS IN TEL AVIV ON 8 JANUARY), YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT GOING BACK ON THE MEETING BETWEEN MR HURD AND QADDUMI AS PART OF AN ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION IN THE SUMMER: INDEED, WE WOULD BE READY TO MAKE THIS QUITE CLEAR. YOU HAVE DISCRETION TO GO ON TO OFFER A MEETING MR HURD/QADDUMI ON THE LINES SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 2, MAKING CLEAR THAT THIS IS A GESTURE ON OUR PART. YOU SHOULD AT THE SAME TIME EMPHASISE THAT OUR DIRECT DEALINGS ON THE VISIT REMAIN WITH KING HASSAN.

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