

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~~

1983 JAN 21 10 12 AM

GPS 650

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 211130Z

ADVANCE COPY

FM RABAT 210950Z JAN 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 43 OF 21 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE TUNIS, INFO PRIORITY OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS,  
WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK.

YOUR TELNO 61 (NOT TO ALL): ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT  
SUMMARY

1. I SAW KING HASSAN IN MARRAKESH YESTERDAY. OUR MEETING  
WENT WELL AND HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS LONDON VISIT.  
THE MOROCCANS WILL ANNOUNCE THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT  
AT 11 AM ON SATURDAY 22 JANUARY. THEY STILL HOPE TO  
BE ABLE TO INCLUDE MILHEM IN THE DELEGATION, BUT MUCH  
WILL DEPEND ON THE KING'S MEETING WITH ARAFAT WHO  
ARRIVES IN MOROCCO THIS MORNING. THE KING THOUGHT WELL OF OUR  
IDEA OF A SEPARATE MEETING BETWEEN MR HURD AND QADDUMI, BUT  
SUGGESTED WE SHOULD HAVE IT BEFORE 14 FEBRUARY WHEN THE  
PNC ARE TO MEET. I NEED TO GIVE HIM A REPLY ON THIS SOON - SEE  
PARAGRAPH 6.

DETAIL

2. I HAD TO LEAVE FOR MARRAKESH BEFORE YOUR TUR AND OTHER  
RELATED TELEGRAMS ARRIVED. NEVERTHELESS I WAS GIVEN THE GIST  
OF THEM OVER THE TELEPHONE AND WAS ABLE TO COVER THE  
GROUND ADEQUATELY. I FIRST HAD USEFUL TALKS WITH  
MOULAY HAFID AND BOUCETTA. BOUCETTA AND I THEN WENT IN TO  
SEE THE KING. HE BEGAN BY ASKING ME TO THANK MRS THATCHER  
FOR HER MESSAGE (YOUR TELNO 56) AND HE SAID HE HAD FOUND IT FULL  
OF QUOTE BON-VOLONTE UNQUOTE. WE THEN DISCUSSED THE  
PROGRAMME. I SAID THAT MOULAY HAFID HAD TOLD ME HOW  
PLEASED HE HAD BEEN BY HIS RECEPTION IN LONDON ON 19 JANUARY.  
THE KING CONFIRMED THIS. SEE MY I.F.T. (FCO ONLY) FOR  
FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PROGRAMME.

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3. WE TALKED ABOUT THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT. BOUCETTA HAD EARLIER CONFIRMED THAT THE MOROCCANS STILL INTENDED TO MAKE A SHORT FACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE LINES ALREADY AGREED (MY TELNO 20). THE KING THOUGHT THE ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE AFTER TODAY'S MEETING OF THE AL QODS COMMITTEE, SAY 11AM TOMORROW JANUARY 22. (OBVIOUSLY HE WANTS FIRST TO GO OVER THE GROUND WITH ARAFAT).

4. I TOLD THE KING OF YOUR IDEA ABOUT A SEPARATE MEETING BETWEEN MR HURD AND QADDUMI. I EMPHASISED THAT THIS WAS AN IMAGINATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN OUR POLICY SEMI-COLON THAT WE HOPED IT WOULD HELP THE KING IN GETTING THE PLO TO AGREE TO HIS ARRANGEMENTS FOR PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN THE LONDON DELEGATION SEMI-COLON AND THAT I BELIEVED, THOUGH I WAS NOT SURE, THAT WE WOULD VERY SHORTLY BE TRYING OUT THIS IDEA ON PLO REPRESENTATIVES IN TUNIS. WE WERE HOWEVER CONCERNED TO LET THE KING KNOW OF IT FIRST.

5. AT FIRST HASSAN MADE NO COMMENT, AND EVEN LOOKED A BIT DOUBTFUL. HOWEVER, WHEN I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THE IDEA, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE SUCH A MEETING. BUT HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD AIM TO HAVE IT MUCH EARLIER THAN PLANNED - AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE DELEGATION HAD VISITED LONDON, AND PREFERABLY BEFORE THE PNC MEETING ON 14 FEBRUARY. IN POLITICS, HE SAID, ONE SHOULD NEVER DO THINGS BY HALVES: IF WE WERE GOING TO MAKE THIS GESTURE, WE SHOULD TRY TO GET MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM IT BY MAKING IT SOON. (I THINK HE HAS A POINT) . HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING COULD VERY SUITABLY TAKE PLACE IN MOROCCO, PERHAPS OVER THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 12/13. HE WOULD BE GLAD TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS, AND WOULD BE READY TO FALL IN WITH OUR WISHES ABOUT PUBLICITY. WE COULD HAVE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE AS WE WISHED. HE ASKED ME TO LET HIM HAVE A REPLY ABOUT THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENT

6. AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO TAKE UP KING HASSAN'S OFFER. BY HAVING THE MEETING UNDER THE AUSPICES, AS IT WERE, OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEZ COMMITTEE, WE SHALL APPEAR TO BE MOVING CLOSER TO ASSOCIATING THE PLO MORE FULLY WITH THE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO LONDON. AND IF I CAN GIVE THE KING A POSITIVE REPLY ON THIS STRAIGHTAWAY IT MIGHT JUST TILT THE BALANCE IN HIS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE ARAFAT TO ACCEPT MILHEM OR AN EQUIVALENT AS THE PALESTINIAN MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION .

CAMBRIDGE