

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

# 22

IMMEDIATE

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/NAD ... ..

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

... ..  
... ..

PUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 191400Z FEB 83

FM RABAT 191225Z FEB 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 112 OF 19 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, TUNIS.

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

MY TEL 96 (NOT TO ALL) AND TELECON RESIDENT CLERK:  
ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT.

1. BOUCETTA SENT FOR ME THIS MORNING. HE APOLOGISED FOR NOT HAVING GIVEN US A REPLY EARLIER AND THANKED ME FOR OUR FORBEARANCE. HE SAID THE KING HAD NOW AGREED TO MARCH 18 AS THE DATE FOR THE VISIT. THE MOROCCANS WOULD BE MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT LATER TODAY TO THIS EFFECT.

2. I SAID I WAS SURE YOU WOULD BE PLEASED THAT THE VISIT WAS FINALLY TO TAKE PLACE. I ASKED WHAT THE MOROCCAN STATEMENT WOULD SAY ABOUT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. BOUCETTA SAID HE WOULD MAKE NO ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THAT ASPECT UNTIL AFTER THE ALGIERS MEETING SO AS NOT TO MAKE DIFFICULTIES FOR ARAFAT. FOR THE PRESENT, IF QUESTIONED, HE WOULD MERELY SAY THAT WE WERE AGREED ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION LATER

WE WERE AGREED ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION. LATER -  
SAY WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK - THE MOROCCANS WOULD ANNOUNCE THAT  
MILHEM WAS TO BE THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE. I ASKED IF  
ARAFAT HAD NOW FINALLY ACCEPTED THIS. BOUCETTA ASSURED ME  
HE HAD - UNLESS, HE ADDED, THERE WAS ANY ADVANCE ON  
OUR SIDE. I SAID OUR POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED. THEN  
MILHEM IT IS, SAID BOUCETTA.

3. BOUCETTA ALSO TOLD ME, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION OF MINE, THAT  
KING HASSAN PROPOSED TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE FEZ  
COMMITTEE ON 24 OR 25 MARCH - HIMSELF, KING HUSSEIN, ARAFAT  
AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE OTHER FOUR MEMBER COUNTRIES - THE  
PURPOSE BEING TO CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S  
VISITS (INCLUDING OF COURSE THE ONE TO LONDON) AND A  
QUOTE VERY DETAILED UNQUOTE REPLY WHICH KING HASSAN HAD  
HAD FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN TO SOME QUESTIONS HE HAD PUT TO THE  
AMERICANS AFTER THE COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST  
YEAR. (I DO NOT KNOW IF THE AMERICANS HAVE GIVEN US  
DETAILS OF THIS EXCHANGE - I WILL ASK MY US COLLEAGUE  
NEXT WEEK).

CAMBRIDGE

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 19/1327Z SDC/RR

PP ABU DHABI

PP ADEN

PP BAGHDAD

PP BAHRAIN