



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 March 1983

Prime Minister

To note.

A.J.C. 15/3

Dear John,

Arab League Delegation: Palestinian Representation

In my letter of 14 March I said that it was not yet certain who the Palestinian representative in the Delegation would be, but that the principle of a non-PLO Palestinian seemed to have been generally accepted.

The Jordanians have now told us that the Palestinian representative will indeed be Walid Khalidi. He is, in brief, a leading Palestinian intellectual who took a degree at London University and lectured at Oxford in the 1950s. Professor at the American University of Beirut, he is currently a Research Fellow at the Harvard Centre for International Affairs. He is an independent Member of the Palestine National Council and not associated with any PLO bodies.

For the record, and in case of last-minute change, the other three non-PLO Palestinians who were under consideration were:

Dr Edward SAID

American educated. For many years Professor of English at Columbia University, New York. Now Professor of European and Comparative Literature at Columbia, and author of several well-known books on Orientalism and Islam. Independent Member of the Palestine National Council.

Dr Hisham SHARABI

Professor of History and Government at Georgetown University, Washington and since 1972 President of the National Association of Arab Americans. Editor of the Journal of Palestine Studies.

/Dr



Dr Ibrahim ABU LOGHUD Professor of Political Science,
Northwestern University, Illinois.
Writer on Palestinian affairs,
and independent member of the Palestine
National Council.

None of these three has any known association with PLO bodies.
All would in our view be acceptable as members of the
Delegation. (I should add, by the way, that membership of
the Palestine National Council, the 'Parliament' of the
Palestinians as a whole, is very wide and embraces leading
Palestinians from all walks of life, many in an independent
capacity.)

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Holmes'.

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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