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Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

17 March 1983

Dear John,

HR 18/3.

Arab League Delegation: Press Statement

/ I enclose as requested a draft press statement which could be drawn upon as required after the Prime Minister's talks on 18 March with King Hussein and the Arab League Delegation. Mr Pym and Mr Hurd are planning to give television and radio interviews on the afternoon of 18 March. We will of course ensure that the actual press line is concerted after the departure of the delegation from Downing Street.

Yours ever  
John Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT: 18 MARCH  
DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT

CAVEAT.....

The Prime Minister the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP held talks earlier today with a Delegation of the Arab League led by His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

His Majesty was received by the Prime Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Courtyard before a Guard of Honour. A session of plenary talks lasting [ ] minutes was held at 10 Downing Street and attended by members of the Arab League Delegation (see background for list) and Arab League Ambassadors. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP and the Minister of State at the Foreign Office the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

In the plenary session of talks, held in an extremely /friendly



friendly and constructive atmosphere, there was a wide-ranging discussion on the situation in the Middle East. The Arab League Delegation presented the conclusions of the Fez Summit. The Prime Minister welcomed the commitment of the Arab states to work for a peaceful resolution of the Arab/Israeli conflict. She reaffirmed the Government's determination to work for a just and comprehensive settlement on the basis of the two Venice principles, namely the right to existence and security for all states in the region, including Israel, as well as justice for the Palestinians, including self-determination. The Prime Minister emphasised that there was now an important opportunity for peaceful progress in the Middle East, and made clear that Britain would support and encourage all those who declared their willingness to enter peace negotiations.

The plenary talks were followed by a private session of talks between the Prime Minister and King Hussein lasting [ ] minutes.

Following a luncheon given by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street in <sup>honour</sup> of His Majesty and the delegation, the delegation were granted an audience of Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace.

#### Background

The Delegation, led by King Hussein of Jordan, comprised the Foreign Minister, of Syria, Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam; Saudi Arabia, Prince Saud bin Faisal bin Abdul Aziz; Jordan, Mr Marwan Sidqi al-Qasem and



Morocco, Maitre M'hamed Boucetta; together with the Tunisian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Mahmoud Mestiri; the Algerian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Hadj Bin Abdel el Kader Azzout; the Secretary General of the Arab League, Mr Chedli Klibi; a Palestinian representative <sup>Professor</sup> Walid Al-Khalidi and the Head of the Jordanian Royal Court Mr Ahmed al-Lawzi.

The delegation are a committee of the Arab League, set up at the Fez Summit in August 1982. The committee was mandated to visit the capitals of all permanent members of the UN Security Council to present the summit's conclusions. King Hassan of Morocco led a delegation [redacted] to Washington in October and was originally expected to have led the delegation to London but his place was taken by King Hussein at the last moment. King Hussein himself took [redacted] delegations [redacted] to Paris, Moscow and Peking in November and December.

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17 MAR 1983



A.S.C. 18/3

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TRANSLATION OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY  
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN  
ON BEHALF OF THE ARAB SUMMIT DELEGATION

LONDON

MARCH 18, 1983

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS. MARGARET THATCHER,

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME AND FOR THE ARAB DELEGATION, WHICH I HAVE THE HONOUR TO LEAD, TO BE HERE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM TODAY. WE HAVE THE DEEPEST RESPECT FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, FOR YOUR OWN PERSON AND FOR THE BRITISH PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT. WE COME TO YOU IN FRIENDSHIP AND WITH THE DESIRE FOR COOPERATION AND JOINT ACTION - FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE BRITISH AND ARAB NATIONS, AS WELL AS OF HUMANITY AT LARGE. WE ARE COGNISANT OF THE STRONG HISTORICAL TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE ARAB WORLD, BOTH IN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT, AND WE LOOK TO THEIR CONTINUED STRENGTHENING IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE EMINENT POSITION WHICH BRITAIN OCCUPIES IN THE ARAB WORLD AND THE EXTENSIVE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF THE TWO NATIONS.

OUR HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN OUR PRESENT ENDEAVOUR IS FORTIFIED BY BRITAIN'S COMMITMENT TO A GLORIOUS HERITAGE, IMBUED WITH THE VALUES OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, AMONG ALL NATIONS. IT IS STRENGTHENED BY A NOBLE TRADITION WHICH REFLECTS THE SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH NATION OVER THE CENTURIES.



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IN PURSUING ITS PEACEFUL MISSION, THE ARAB COMMITTEE, WHICH GREW OUT OF THE FEZ SUMMIT CONFERENCE, EMBODIES THE ARAB WILL FOR MOVEMENT TOWARDS A JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE TO WHICH THE MIDDLE EAST ASPIRES, BUT WHICH HAS ELUDED THE REGION FOR A LONG TIME. IN THIS REGARD, BRITAIN HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THOSE ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE HAD A LONG AND COMMON ASSOCIATION WITH IT AND WHICH CONTINUED, AFTER ACHIEVING THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM, TO PRESERVE THEIR STRONG FRIENDSHIP AND JOINT COOPERATION. I AM SURE YOUR EXCELLENCY IS AWARE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH ALL ARAB COUNTRIES ARE DRAWN TO YOUR OWN IN TERMS OF CULTURE AND TRADE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, ONLY ONE ARAB COUNTRY, NAMELY PALESTINE, AND ONLY ONE ARAB PEOPLE, NAMELY PALESTINIAN ARABS, THAT CONTINUE TO FACE AGGRESSION, COUPLED WITH DEPRIVATION OF THEIR NATURAL AND LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION ON THEIR NATIONAL SOIL. THEIR LAND HAS BEEN UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION SINCE 1967, AND THE PEOPLE HAVE THUS BECOME THE VICTIMS OF OCCUPATION AND DISPERSAL. THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO RESIST OCCUPATION, WHICH ROBS THEM OF THEIR FREEDOM, THEIR IDENTITY, THEIR PEACE AND THEIR SECURITY.



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MADAM PRIME MINISTER,

THERE IS NO NEED TO REVIEW BEFORE YOU THE TRADEGY OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BECAUSE OF MY SURE KNOWLEDGE THAT BRITAIN, BY VIRTUE OF ITS TRUSTEESHIP AND MANDATE OVER PALESTINE, KNOWS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, THE HISTORY OF THE PALESTINE QUESTION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. A FAIR AND OBJECTIVE LOOK AT WHAT IS PRESENTLY HAPPENING IN ARAB JERUSALEM, ON THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, IN THE CITIES AND VILLAGES, IS SUFFICIENT TO REVEAL THE GRAVITY OF ISRAEL'S INHUMAN PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. IT EXPOSES ISRAEL'S BLATANT VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE - MANIFESTED BY THEIR EVICTION FROM THEIR HOMES AND PROPERTY, THE EXPROPRIATION OF THEIR LANDS, THE ALTERATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL FABRIC OF THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE, THE IMPOSITION OF COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT AND THE CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES. BY DINT OF THEIR FREEDOM, EFFICIENCY AND INTERGRITY, THE BRITISH INFORMATION MEDIA HAVE EXPOSED THE INJUSTICES SUFFERED BY THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, AS WELL AS THE BURNING, VIOLATION AND DESECRATION OF ITS MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN HOLY PLACES. AFTER ANNEXING ARAB JERUSALEM, ISRAEL PROCEEDED IN 1969 TO BURN AL-AQSA MOSQUE, THE FIRST TO WHICH MUSLIMS EVER TURNED TO PRAYERS. IT



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HAS CONTINUED WITH EXCAVATIONS ADJOINING THE MOSQUE'S FOUNDATIONS, WITH A VIEW TO CAUSING ITS COLLAPSE. THE MOST RECENT OF THE BLATANT ATTACKS ON THE MOSQUE WAS THE ATTEMPT AT SETTLING ON ITS PREMISES BY SOLDIERS OF THE ISRAELI ARMY AND OTHER SETTLERS. THESE EXAMPLES, OF WHICH THE ENTIRE WORLD IS FULLY AWARE, SURELY REVEAL THE SCHEMES PERPETRATED BY ISRAEL AGAINST THE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS.

MADAM PRIME MINISTER,

IN VIEW OF ISRAEL'S CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS, ITS REJECTION OF ALL INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS AND ITS REBELION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY, UPON WHICH ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE IS BASED ON, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARTITION PLAN OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 181 IN 1947 WHILE ISRAEL DENIES SUCH RIGHT TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND IN THE LIGHT OF ARAB DETERMINATION TO PERSIST IN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINE PROBLEM, THE TWELFTH ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE HELD IN THE CITY OF FEZ HAS RATIFIED THE ARAB PEACE PLAN, WHICH WE HAVE COME TO PRESENT TO YOUR GOVERNMENT AND EXPLAIN TO BRITISH OFFICIALS. THE PLAN IS AN EXPRESSION OF ARAB SOLIDARITY AND REFLECTS THEIR UNIFIED POSITION AND UNSHAKEN BELIEF IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE FOR

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THEMSELVES, AS WELL AS FOR ALL THE NATIONS OF THE AREA, FOREMOST OF WHICH ARE THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE. THE ARAB PEACE PLAN IS BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY AND ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE UNITED KINGDOM IS A GREAT POWER, AND A PERMANENT MEMBER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL; IT HAS EMINENT STATURE IN THE WORLD AND A POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY. IT PLAYED A DOMINANT ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, WHICH DERIVED FROM THE TWIN PRINCIPLES OF THE INADMISSIBILITY OF THE ACQUISITION OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LANDS THROUGH WAR AND THE IMPERATIVE THAT OCCUPATION SHOULD END. MOREOVER, BRITAIN HAS A DISTINGUISHED ROLE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WHICH ISSUED THE VENICE DECLARATION OF 1980 THAT INCLUDES MANY OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE EIGHT POINT ARAB PEACE PLAN.

WE HAVE VIEWED WITH APPRECIATION THIS DECLARATION WHICH WE HOPED WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO AVERT THE DANGERS OF POLARIZATION OF OUR REGION.

THE BRITISH NATION, WHOSE DEALINGS WITH ALL OTHER NATIONS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY A SENSE OF FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE, IS CAPABLE TODAY OF PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN LENDING ITS SUPPORT TO THE JUST CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ENABLING THEM TO EXERCISE THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO



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SELF-DETERMINATION ON THEIR NATIONAL SOIL, AS WELL AS THEIR RIGHT, BASED FIRMLY ON PRINCIPLE, TO ESTABLISH THEIR INDEPENDENT STATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION, THEIR SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE. IN THE PEACE PLAN, WHICH THEY PRESENT TO THE WORLD TODAY, THE ARABS SEEK A JUST PEACE, FULLY REALISING THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH THEY BEAR TOWARDS THIS PEACE, WHICH CANNOT BE ACHIEVED EXCEPT BY THE REMOVAL OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION FROM ALL THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, FOREMOST OF WHICH IS ARAB JERUSALEM. IN THE FEZ SUMMIT PLAN, THE ARABS ARE EQUALLY COMMITTED TO ALL INTERNATIONAL PEACE GUARANTEES.

MADAM PRIME MINISTER,

THE VIOLENT EVENTS IN OUR REGION AND THE SUCCESSIVE WARS WHICH ISRAEL HAS WAGED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND THE OTHER ARABS, THE LAST BEING THE INVASION OF LEBANON AND OCCUPATION OF BEIRUT, ALL DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PALESTINE QUESTION HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE ESSENCE OF THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CAUSE OF UNREST AND CONFRONTATION, WHICH THREATEN THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF OUR REGION, AS WELL AS THE PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY OF EUROPE AND THE ENTIRE WORLD. THE ARAB PEACE PLAN IS A RESPONSIBLE AND SINCERE CONTRIBUTION, WHICH EMANATES FROM THE DESIRE OF THE ARABS TO PUT AN END TO CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST - ON THE BASIS OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND THE GUARANTEE OF PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY FOR THE PEOPLES



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OF THE ENTIRE REGION. THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, MANIFESTED BY ISRAEL'S ESCALATION OF ITS PRACTICES WITH REGARD TO ITS SETTLEMENT POLICY, MAGNIFIES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TIME ELEMENT. IT PUTS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO A GENUINE TEST OF ITS WILL AND ITS ABILITY TO CURB AGGRESSION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

WE THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS MEETING TO BE HELD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP, CONFIDENCE AND A COMMON SEARCH FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINE QUESTION.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE CONSIDERATIONS OF OUR HIGHEST REGARD FOR YOUR PERSON AND YOUR FRIENDLY COUNTRY.



"REFERENCE PAPER"

FEZ DECISION - ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT

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The Arab Heads of State meeting in Fez in September 1982, have unanimously decided on a unified Arab position for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and have endorsed the following principles as the basis for a just peace:

1. Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.
2. Dismantling of the settlements erected by Israel on the occupied Arab territories after 1967.
3. Guaranteeing freedom of worship and religious practices for all religions in the Holy places.
4. The re-affirmation of the right of the Palestinian people to self determination, the exercise of its inalienable national rights under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization - its sole legitimate representative and the compensation of those opting not to return.
5. The placement of the West Bank and Gaza strip under United Nations supervision in a transitional period not exceeding few months.
6. The establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.
7. Peace guarantees by the Security Council among all states in the region including the independent Palestinian state.
8. Security Council to guarantee implementation of these principles.