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RAMAS



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 March, 1985

EUROPEAN COUNCIL:MIDDLE EAST

The Prime Minister had a brief discussion with the Foreign Secretary this morning about whether the forthcoming European Council should issue any sort of statement on the Middle East. The Prime Minister suggested that a reasoned, low-key statement of support for the efforts of King Hussein and President Mubarak to make progress might be useful. But it would need very careful handling. In particular we should have to work for references to "representation of the Palestinians" rather than "the PLO". We should also focus on the efforts being made by the parties themselves and not give any impression that the Community was taking an initiative. Clearly it would be best if the United Kingdom could itself table language for such a statement, which the Prime Minister would like to see in draft. The Foreign Secretary agreed to follow this up urgently.

The Prime Minister also made the point that we should consult very carefully though discreetly with the Americans in the preparation of a text to ensure that we were not led into any course which conflicted with or made more difficult the Americans' own efforts.

(C D Powell)

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