

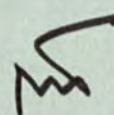


Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 March 1985

Dear Charles,


 Prime Minister
 CDP
 20/3

European Council: Middle East

Please refer to your letter of 21 March. I enclose a copy of the Presidency's draft text of conclusions on the Middle East.

Mr Coles has also sought King Hussein's views (my letter of 20 March). The King has asked that any Council language should:

- (a) treat the Jordan/PLO agreement as a positive and constructive move;
- (b) express the hope that other parties concerned would respond constructively;
- (c) note with approval the commitment of the PLO to peaceful negotiation.

The Jordanian Minister of Court added, but apparently as an afterthought, that the Jordanians hoped that the Council would not refer to President Mubarak's proposals, since they provided ammunition for Arafat's opponents to claim that he was following Egypt down the Camp David path.

We think that the Presidency draft text, though rather wordy, strikes the right balance, and with some simple but substantial pruning could be made reasonably satisfactory. It meets points (a) and (b) above. It goes as far as we would wish on (c). We do not think that it is practicable or desirable to omit mention of President Mubarak: though less important than those of King Hussein, his procedural proposals are a significant element.

I accordingly enclose a shorter version illustrating the changes for which we might work. These are largely stylistic (though our suggested omission of a reference to the Venice Declaration may be seen as a substantive point by the Presidency: a reference may be unavoidable). Square

/brackets



brackets indicate pruning of unnecessary or objectionable wording: the few extra words needed are underlined. We have arranged for our Embassy in Washington to go over the ground discreetly with the Americans (as also suggested in your letter), and should have US comments by tomorrow morning.

The Presidency have given notice that they mean to initiate a discussion on the merits of intensifying contacts between the Presidency/Troika and the Jordanians/Palestinians. If the Prime Minister agrees, we will argue in the preparatory meetings:

- (a) that we can go along with a consensus in favour of this, if it is clearly a matter of Palestinians rather than the PLO as such; but
- (b) that it would need careful handling, and we should require the Presidency/Troika to act on the basis of further consideration among the Ten of what they should aim to achieve;
- (c) that any high profile action which could be portrayed as a new 'European initiative' should be avoided.

[This looks full of pitfalls to me]
C.D.P.

Yours ever,
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PS I have been unable to consult the Foreign Secretary on the above proposal. He may of course have comments later.

MIDDLE EAST

Shortened version
A Presidency draft

"The Ten are closely following developments in the Middle East. [] They welcome recent moves towards a reactivation of the negotiating process in the search for a solution to the Arab-Israel conflict and notably the agreement reached between Jordan and the PLO in Amman on 11 February and the ideas put forward by the Egyptian President, Mr Mubarak. [] []

"They confirm their conviction that the achievement of a just and lasting solution calls for the participation and the active support of all the parties concerned. The Ten consider that no effort should be spared to maintain and strengthen the present movement in the peace process and to facilitate a dialogue between all the parties. []

"The Ten reconfirm their willingness ^{low} to contribute to a comprehensive just and peaceful settlement of the Middle East question [] in their contacts with the parties. []

"The Ten view with deep concern the intensification of the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The present escalation in military activities against civilian targets is a serious development. Consequently, the Ten

call upon Iraq and Iran to comply once again with the commitment made under the agreement concluded in June 1984, under the aegis of the UN Secretary-General, to refrain from bombing civilian targets. The Ten draw the attention of both countries to the profound humanitarian concerns raised by this and other aspects of the conflict, such as the treatment of prisoners of war and the alleged use of chemical weapons.

"The continued losses of life among the civilian population, the serious damage to the economy of both countries and the permanent risk of an extension of the hostilities make a negotiated solution to the conflict more necessary and pressing than ever. Recalling the recent statements of the UN Secretary-General the Ten urge Iran and Iraq to agree upon an immediate ceasefire and to start a negotiating process with a view to achieving a peaceful solution which is honourable and acceptable to both sides.

"The Ten continue to view with concern the deterioration of the situation in Southern Lebanon. They look for the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from that region in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. The Ten welcome the Israeli Government's decision to withdraw its forces. The Ten consider it important that adequate security arrangements be reached between the Israeli and Lebanese Governments. UNIFIL could have a significant role to play in this context. The Ten appeal to all the

Senior
Team?

parties concerned, both within Lebanon and outside, to act in such a way as to facilitate the process of restoring the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon."