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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister  
I agree with the Foreign Secretary that this is not the moment for a message to Mubarak. It would look a bit as though you thought he was on his last legs.  
Dear Charles, Agree the attached telegram, with the addition I have suggested?

6 March 1986

Possible Message to President Mubarak

Cairo telnos 142 and 147 recommended that the Prime Minister should consider sending a message to President Mubarak expressing relief at the end of disturbances involving the Egyptian Security Police.

It is clearly desirable that the Prime Minister should keep in close personal touch with President Mubarak. But Sir Geoffrey Howe considers that the riots do not offer a suitable peg and that a message from the Prime Minister at this stage, when we have no particular point affecting British interests to convey, would risk devaluing the currency.

The disturbances appear to have been provoked by disgruntlement on the part of the Security Police conscripts about their pay and conditions of service. Order has now been restored. But Egypt's continuing economic difficulties and the prospect of more austerity measures mean that further outbreaks of disorder cannot be ruled out. We do not wish to seem complacent about Egypt's future stability, nor to appear to endorse Mubarak's specific domestic policies. Nor were the steps taken by the Egyptian authorities to restore order and to protect British lives and property so unusual as to merit a message of thanks from the Prime Minister. No British citizens were injured in the disturbances, though several lost their possessions.

Sir Geoffrey Howe also has reservations about referring in any message to the peace process at a time when President Mubarak is at odds with King Hussein in his support for Arafat and his call for resumption of the Jordan/PLO dialogue. Sir Geoffrey has however authorised Sir Alan Urwick to rebut, in a personal message to the Egyptian Foreign Minister, suggestions that the UK was instrumental in frustrating President Mubarak's call for a "contact group" of European Ministers to promote the peace process.

/I enclose

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I enclose a draft telegram which might be sent to Cairo if the Prime Minister agrees that a personal message would not be appropriate.

*Yours ever,*

*R N Culshaw,*

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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# OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	Caveat	Precedence <b>IMMEDIATE</b>	
ZCZC TC CAVEAT FM TO TELNO OF AND TO	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	ZCZC CONFIDENTIAL FM FCO TO IMMEDIATE CAIRO TELNO OF 031700Z MARCH 86 YOUR TELNO 142: MESSAGE TO MUBARAK 1. Thank you for this advice. The Prime Minister has decided against sending a message to Mubarak at this stage. 2. Without underestimating the importance of the recent disturbances, we believe that such a message, which would become public knowledge, would risk creating an exaggerated impression of the immediate threat <del>they have posed</del> to Egypt's stability, while at the same time setting a precedent that would be hard to sustain if in coming months there are further outbreaks of disorder. Particularly in view of the current deterioration of the economy, we wish to avoid appearing to endorse Mubarak's specific domestic policies or to be peddling the view his troubles are now over. Nor, while Egypt and Jordan appear to be operating at cross purposes, do we wish to express wholehearted support for Mubarak's approach to the peace process. 3. You may, however, tell the Egyptians that Ministers are most grateful for the measures taken to protect British lives and property and glad that order has now been restored, <i>and that the Prime Minister has asked you to convey her personal good wishes to the President.</i>			Mued <i>ms</i>
YYYY MAIN ADDITIONAL NNNN	File number		Dept <b>NENAD</b>	Catchword: <b>HOWE</b> Drafted by (Block capitals) <b>A F GOULTY</b>	Telephone no <b>233 6030</b>
Authorised for despatch by:		Initials	Date/time	Telegram number	
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# OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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Caveat

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10 PROTOCOL D

11 NEWS D

12 INFO D

13 PLANNING STAFF

14 PS

15 PS/MR RENTON

16 PS/PUS

17 MR EWEN FERGUSSON

18 SIR D MIERS

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21 ASSESSMENTS STAFF

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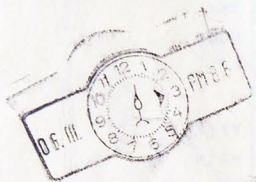
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TO  
FROM

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REMARKS





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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 March 1986

**POSSIBLE MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK**

BF | Thank you for your letter of 6 March conveying the Foreign Secretary's recommendation that we should not at this juncture envisage a message from the Prime Minister to President Mubarak. The Prime Minister agrees with this advice. The telegram enclosed with your letter may issue with the addition of a phrase at the end of paragraph 3:

"and that the Prime Minister has asked you to convey her personal good wishes to the President."

(Charles Powell)

R. N. Culshaw, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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CONFIDENTIAL  
 FM FCO  
 TO DESKBY 071530Z CAIRO  
 TELNO 78  
 OF 071420Z MARCH 86

YOUR TELNO 142: MESSAGE TO MUBARAK

1. THANK YOU FOR THIS ADVICE. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DECIDED AGAINST SENDING A MESSAGE TO MUBARAK AT THIS STAGE.
2. WITHOUT UNDERESTIMATING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RECENT DISTURBANCES, WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A MESSAGE, WHICH WOULD BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, WOULD RISK CREATING AN EXAGGERATED IMPRESSION OF THE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO EGYPT'S STABILITY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SETTING A PRECEDENT THAT WOULD BE HARD TO SUSTAIN IF IN COMING MONTHS THERE ARE FURTHER OUTBREAKS OF DISORDER. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT DETERIORATION OF THE ECONOMY, WE WISH TO AVOID APPEARING TO ENDORSE MUBARAK'S SPECIFIC DOMESTIC POLICIES OR TO BE PEDDLING THE VIEW HIS TROUBLES ARE NOW OVER. NOR, WHILE EGYPT AND JORDAN APPEAR TO BE OPERATING AT CROSS PURPOSES, DO WE WISH TO EXPRESS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT FOR MUBARAK'S APPROACH TO THE PEACE PROCESS.
3. YOU MAY, HOWEVER, TELL THE EGYPTIANS THAT MINISTERS ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE MEASURES TAKEN TO PROTECT BRITISH LIVES AND PROPERTY AND GLAD THAT ORDER HAS NOW BEEN RESTORED AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED YOU TO CONVEY HER PERSONAL GOOD WISHES TO THE PRESIDENT.

HOWE

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SIR D MIERS

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