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cc: Egypt - visit of Mubarak Seen by AS



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 December 1981

Dear John,

The Prime Minister has kindly agreed to see the Egyptian Ambassador Mr Abou Seeda at 1230 pm today. The Ambassador has told us that he wishes to deliver a message from President Mubarak. We have not seen the text but believe it to be a general statement on the Middle East and to contain an expression of thanks for the decision to make British troops available for the Sinai multinational force.

Lord Carrington believes that it would be useful if the Prime Minister could take the opportunity to invite President Mubarak to visit Britain next year. Our Embassy have reported Mubarak as saying that he has accepted invitations to visit the United States and France. It would be useful, particularly in the first half of 1982 as the date for the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai approaches, for us to see Mubarak briefly in London. We shall also need to keep closely alongside Egypt on general Middle East questions next year, as their role is likely to grow in importance. The transition of power in Egypt has gone smoothly; Mubarak is firmly in command. He is broadly sticking to Sadat's policies, but there are already signs that he has his own ideas. He is dissatisfied with the inefficiency of the economy and has shown that he is prepared to take a more flexible line with the opposition and with other Arab states.

Our relations with Egypt are excellent. Mr Nott and Mr Biffen have both visited Cairo in the past few months. Mubarak, who has a Welsh wife, has made it clear that he wishes to maintain Egypt's close ties with Britain.

Yours ever  
Rodric Lyne

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

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