



Prime Minister Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Melorak to Visit London

on the way back from 4 January 1985

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Possible Invitation to President Mubarak of Egypt

We have heard from Cairo that President Mubarak will be visiting Washington for talks with President Reagan between 8 and 13 March and Sir M Weir has suggested that it might be an opportune moment to Provite President Mubarak for a brief working visit on his way to or from Washington.

President Mubarak last visited the UK in February 1983 when he had talks with the Prime Minister. We invited him to visit again in October that year on his return from Washington but he was unable to do so.

Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that it is very much in our interests to maintain close and regular contacts with Egypt at senior political level. He and the Defence Secretary visited Cairo last year, while the Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Field Marshal Abu Ghazala, and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr Boutros Ghali, came to Britain. We expect the Egyptian Foreign Minister here on an official visit on 4.5 February. But contacts at the highest level have been very infrequent. The Egyptians are themselves keen for the Prime Minister to visit Egypt and have been disappointed that she has so far been unable to do so. There has indeed been some suggestion that President Mubarak is reluctant to visit the UK again before such a return visit to Cairo. Our relative lack of contact at the highest level between Egypt and the UK contrasts unfavourably with that of others. President Mubarak has met President Mitterrand on nine occasions since 1981, and Chancellor Kohl at least five times. The Egyptians may interpret this disparity between our major European partners and ourselves as indicating that we are not serious about dealing with them, or else not interested in their problems and views. This will reflect not only on their political relations with us but also in commercial and other dealings.



Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that we must continue to work to maintain contact with Mubarak. Egypt is now re-emerging as a leading moderate Arab state, and also a member of the UN Security Council. Mubarak's own position is also much stronger than it was a year ago. Given that the pressures on the Prime Minister's diary will make it very difficult for her to go to Cairo herself in 1985, Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that it would be very useful to invite President Mubarak to London again. An ideal opportunity might be on his way to or from Washington in March. The President might be invited to spend one working day in London, in which the Prime Minister's involvement might be limited to one session of talks and, if possible, a meal.

Le eve, Peter Richalts,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq 10 Downing Street





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 January 1985

POSSIBLE INVITATION TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK OF EGYPT

Thank you for your letter of 4 January suggesting that President Mubarak should be invited to pay a brief working visit to the UK on his way to or from Washington in March.

The Prime Minister agrees in principle to inviting President Mubarak at that time. It would be more convenient if he were able to come on his way back from Washington. The Prime Minister could offer him lunch on 13 March or dinner on 14 March, with a preference for the former.

I should be grateful if this invitation could be put to President Mubarak.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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YOUR TELNG GOT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT MUBARAK

- 1. I SPOKE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET THIS MORNING. AFTER CONSULTING HIS MINISTER, MUHSIN FAHMI SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY PRESIDENT MUBARAK WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE WASHINGTON UNTIL THE EVENING OF 13 MARCH, ARRIVING IN LONDON EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING. THE PRESIDENT MUCH PREFERRED LUNCHES TO DINNERS AND HIS TIME WOULD BE LIMITED AFTER HIS LENGTHY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO OFFER THE PRESIDENT LUNCH ON 14 MARCH RATHER THAN DINNER?
- 2. I SAID THAT I ASSUMED FROM THE FACT THAT LUNCH ON 14 MARCH HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBILITY MEANT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER, I WOULD REPORT WHAT FAHM! HAD SAID.
- 3. GRATEFUL FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. MUBARAK IS CLEARLY INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO STUP-OFF IN LONDON AND MIGHT WELL DO SO EVEN WITHOUT THE PROSPECT OF A MEAL WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER, IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY ADD CONSIDERABLY TO THE VISIT IF THE PRIME MINISTER WERE ABLE TO RE-ARRANGE HER PROGRAMME AND INVITE HIM TO LUNCH ON 14 MARCH.

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Mrs. Goodald Sq. an.

PRIME MINISTER

President Mubarak's Visit

You agreed in principle to offer President Mubarak talks and a lunch of dinner on his way back from Washington on 14 March. The Egyptians have now let us know that he would be delighted with a dinner.

Confirm agreement to dinner for 48 in honour of President Mubarak?

CDS.

Vio m

C. D. POWELL

22 January, 1985