

BF 11.5-45 on 4 Feb.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 January 1985

Prime Minister  
Agree to see  
Egyptian Foreign  
Minister for a brief  
meeting. CDP 10/1

Yes not

Dear Charles,

Visit by the Foreign Minister of Egypt

Dr Ismat Abdel Meguid, Foreign Minister of Egypt, is paying an official visit to Britain from 2 until 6 February in return for Sir Geoffrey Howe's visit to Cairo in January 1984. The official programme is planned to take place on 4 and 5 February. He will go on to Washington to prepare for President Mubarak's visit to the United States in March, and will visit Paris on his way back to Egypt. He has particularly asked to see the Prime Minister and will be keen to hear her impressions of the prospects for United States policy following President Reagan's re-election.

Attached

In my letter of 4 January I referred to Sir Geoffrey Howe's belief that it was very much in our interests to maintain close and regular contacts with Egypt at senior political level. The Prime Minister has agreed to invite President Mubarak to visit London on his way back from Washington in March (your letter of 7 January) and we have asked Sir M Weir in Cairo to forward this invitation urgently. If President Mubarak can come, the Egyptians will appreciate very much the opportunity for the Foreign Minister to see the Prime Minister briefly in preparation for the President's visit. If Mubarak cannot come, it will be all the more valuable for the Egyptians to have at least a brief contact with the Prime Minister on this occasion. We therefore recommend that the Prime Minister should receive Dr Abdel Meguid for a short courtesy call on 4 or 5 February, with a preference for the latter, if that were convenient to the Prime Minister.

The last such occasion when the Prime Minister saw an Egyptian Minister was the call by the Minister of Defence, Field Marshal Abu Ghazala, on 6 March 1983.

Lover,

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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cc: PC R07

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 January, 1985

VISIT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF EGYPT

Thank you for your letter of 9 January asking whether the Prime Minister will wish to see the Egyptian Foreign Minister during his visit to London.

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The Prime Minister would be happy to receive Dr. Meguid at 1030 hrs on 5 February for half-an-hour.

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I should be grateful if the necessary briefing could reach me by the evening of 1 February.

(C.D. Powell)

P.R. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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