



Prime Minister Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
 Useful background  
 to your meeting  
 with Dr. Meguid  
 tomorrow morning.

London SW1A 2AH

4 February 1985

Dear Charles;

CDP 4/2

Call by the Egyptian Foreign Minister: 5 February

With my letter of 1 February I enclosed a brief for the above meeting. The Prime Minister might wish to know the main points Dr Abdel Meguid made in his talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Luce today. I also enclose a suggested press line for use after the call.

Dr Abdel Meguid made a good impression. He was clearly well briefed. He said that President Mubarak was clearly looking forward to his visit to London on 14 March, and that the President might stay here for a further day. On Arab/Israel he noted a number of encouraging factors in the present situation. He emphasised the importance of securing US endorsement for the principle of self-determination for the Palestinians and said that Egypt was working to encourage Mr Peres in a number of specific ways.

He also made the point that Arafat was trying to lead the PLO in a moderate direction and to that extent deserved encouragement.

On Sudan, he said that the present situation was serious, but there was no alternative to Nimeiri. Sudan's friends should encourage and support Nimeiri with good advice. On Libya, Britain should deal firmly but discreetly with Qadhafi, who was shrewd, ambitious and dangerous. The military threat he could offer was declining, but he had links with international terrorism. Dr Meguid made clear that Egypt would be glad to cooperate more closely with us against terrorism.

In the afternoon Mr Luce and Dr Abdel Meguid discussed the Maghreb. The latter thought that King Hassan's rapprochement with Qadhafi had been a bad mistake and was already moribund. Progress towards a settlement of the Iran/Iraq war was blocked; he agreed we should work to contain it. In a discussion on arms control he suggested closer Anglo-Egyptian exchanges in preparation for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to be held in Geneva in September. This is welcome.

/Dr Abdel Meguid

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Dr Abdel Meguid indicated that he might raise the proposal for increased cooperation in the fight against terrorism with the Prime Minister tomorrow. If he does so, we recommend that the Prime Minister should say that we naturally favour practical cooperation against terrorism, and will follow up his approach soon through our Embassy in Cairo.

*Yours ever,  
Peter Ricketts*

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EGYPT  
F.M.

