



CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

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14/3

13th March 1985

Dear Margaret,

Dr. Omar Zuwawi, who is the Sultan of Oman's connection with President Mubarak, came to see me yesterday.

He had seen Mubarak a few days ago and asked him about the plans for his visit to the United States. Mubarak said that his first objective was to get money for Egypt, his second was to get American support for King Hussein and his plan for negotiations with Israel.

Zuwawi asked Mubarak what would happen if Arafat ran out on his agreement with the King. Mubarak replied that in that case the King should go ahead with such Palestinian support as he could mobilise. He and Arafat had reached agreement. This had been announced. If Arafat went back on it the King should feel free to go ahead.

I have some doubts myself as to whether the King will feel free but Mubarak would apparently like him to do so.

I asked Zuwawi whether Mubarak was likely to say the same thing to you when he saw you. He was not sure but suggested that you should put two questions to Mubarak:-

1. "What do you think the King should do if Arafat goes back on the agreement"?
2. "What do you think the Arabs on the West Bank and in Gaza would wish the King to do in these circumstances"?

I also gather from Zuwawi that Mubarak is, at the moment at any rate, very critical of the Saudis. You may like to draw him out on this.

I pass this on for what it may be worth.

Julian Amery

P.S. Since dictating the above I have had a letter from Peres in which he says "we see a welcome change in the Egyptian position both in the direction of bilateral relations and in the pursuit of a broader peace process. Yet in both contexts further progress is needed before we can feel sure that we have witnessed a turning point and a breakthrough".

The question you may like to put to Mubarak in this context might be:

"Does he think that Peres could continue in office if the Liked withdraw from the coalition over negotiations with Jordan"?

Rt.Hon.Margaret Thatcher MP.
Prime Minister

Julian

c.c. Rt.Hon.Sir Geoffrey Howe QC.MP.