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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 October 1985

JOINT JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

I understand that arrangements are in hand for the Foreign Secretary to see the joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation in the first half of October.

It is clear that the exact terms of what the Palestinian members of the delegation say while in the United Kingdom about their personal rejection of violence and willingness to work for a peaceful settlement will be subject to very close scrutiny. The advance commitment obtained from them during the Prime Minister's visit to Amman was not wholly satisfactory in referring to relevant UN resolutions rather than specifically to Israel's right to exist. Against this, the King has always told us that they would be specific on this point; and Zaid Rifai said that the Jordanian members of the delegation would ensure at the time that their Palestinian colleagues would explicitly acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

A statement which falls short of what King Hussein has promised us would be widely represented as a failure of our diplomacy. You are no doubt considering how we can minimise this risk and how we should react if we eventually have to cope with it.

The Prime Minister would find it helpful to know whether we are taking steps to get a more precise, private commitment in advance from the Jordanians as to what Milhem and Khoury will say; and what steps we plan to take in the event that their statements plainly fall short of what we have been led to expect.

(C.D. POWELL)

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