



10 DOWNING STREET

4 October 1985

From the Private Secretary

Dear Kaur,

JOINT JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

You will have seen my letter of 3 October about the need to ensure that the Palestinian members of the joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation make an unequivocal statement of their renunciation of terrorism and acceptance of a peaceful settlement, including recognition of Israel's right to exist, while they are in London. The need for such a statement to be unequivocal and unconditional was emphasised very strongly at the Prime Minister's meeting with the Conservative Friends of Israel last night (about which I have also written). Against this, the Israeli raid on Tunis may well increase the difficulty for Milhem and Khoury of making a statement which we would regard as adequate.

The Prime Minister is increasingly concerned about this, above all to avoid an outcome which is actually damaging to King Hussein's peace initiative. This would come about were the statement by Milhem and Khoury to be inadequate and we were in consequence compelled to reject it as such. She thinks, therefore, that it would be sensible to attempt to clarify privately in advance with Milhem and Khoury exactly what they will say. There are various ways this could be done. The Prime Minister is inclined to think that the best channel would be Mr. Coles to the Jordanian Prime Minister, though if this produced an unsatisfactory result it might be necessary for her to send a message to King Hussein. In the last resort, it might be best for the visit to be postponed.

The most difficult point is likely to be obtaining from them explicit and unconditional (though personal) recognition of Israel's right to exist. You will no doubt be considering possible forms of words on this and the other points to be covered in a statement. The Prime Minister would be interested to see possible wording.

(C.D. Powell)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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