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DD 181300Z CAIRO
FM FCOLN TO CAIRO
181100Z OCT
GRS 356

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T192/85

CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO
TO DESKBY 181300Z CAIRO
TELNO 397
OF 181100Z OCTOBER 85

YOUR TELNO 779: REPLY TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S MESSAGE TO THE
PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK FROM
THE PRIME MINISTER:

BEGINS I WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE DELIVERED TO ME ON
4 OCTOBER. I TOO ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO KEEPING IN
CLOSE TOUCH. I LOOK BACK WITH ENORMOUS PLEASURE TO MY OWN VISIT
TO EGYPT LAST MONTH. IT WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO HAVE AN
EXTENDED TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THE MANY PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.

I AGREE THAT THE RECENT UPSURGE IN VIOLENCE HAS
UNDERLINED THE URGENT NEED FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE. AS YOU
KNOW WE HAVE CONDEMNED BOTH THE TERRIBLE LARNACA MURDERS, AND
THE ISRAELI REPRISAL RAID. WE RECOGNISE THE STRENGTH OF FEELING
IN ISRAEL, BUT THIS CANNOT JUSTIFY SUCH ACTIONS IN VIOLATION OF
TUNISIAN SOVEREIGNTY.

SINCE YOU WROTE, YOU HAVE HAD TO FACE AGONISINGLY
DIFFICULT DECISIONS OVER THE HIJACKING OF THE ACHILLE LAURO. I
WELCOMED YOUR SWIFT DENUNCIATION OF THE HIJACKING, THE MEASURES
YOU TOOK TO BRING IT TO AN END, AND YOUR PROMPT AGREEMENT TO THE
RETURN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF THE BRITISH CREW MEMBERS. THIS

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| APPALLING

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APPALLING INCIDENT HAS DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN THE NEED FOR UNITED INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM, AND ACTION TO COMBAT IT.

YOU KNOW HOW FIRMLY I SUPPORT THE EFFORTS WHICH YOU AND KING HUSSEIN ARE MAKING TO SECURE MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE WITH ISRAEL. MY INVITATION TO A JOINT JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO VISIT LONDON WAS A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF THAT SUPPORT. I WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT AT THE LAST MOMENT THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH A PREVIOUSLY AGREED STATEMENT. WITHOUT THIS AGREED BASIS THE MEETING COULD NOT TAKE PLACE. I AM SAD BECAUSE THIS WILL I FEAR SET BACK YOUR OWN EFFORTS AND THOSE OF KING HUSSEIN. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT THE APPROACH WE DISCUSSED IN CAIRO REMAINS THE RIGHT ONE. WE NEED TO GO ON ENCOURAGING THOSE ON BOTH SIDES WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE RISKS FOR PEACE. BRITAIN WILL CERTAINLY DO SO. ENDS.

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LIMITED

NENAD
MED
SCD
RESEARCH DEPT
NEWS DEPT
PS
PS/MR RENTON
MR FERGUSSON
MR EGERTON

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CF Flesher

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 October 1985

Thank you for your letter of 15 October with which you enclosed a draft message from the Prime Minister to President Mubarak of Egypt. This is just to confirm that the Prime Minister agreed to the message as drafted and has authorised its despatch via the British Ambassador in Cairo.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CF

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JPC



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 October 1985

Dear Charles,

Message from President Mubarak to the Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 4 October enclosing President Mubarak's message to the Prime Minister about the Israeli air attack on Tunis. Similar messages were sent to other EC Heads of Government.

I enclose as requested a draft reply. I am sorry to inflict this on you so soon before we leave. But the Achille Lauro incident has left the Egyptians and President Mubarak himself distinctly bruised. So a warm message now would be doubly appreciated.

The Ambassador in Cairo would like to deliver the message personally to President Mubarak if possible. The approved version could if necessary be sent from Nassau.

*Yours ever,
Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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Middle East
Situation Part 14



DRAFT: ~~minutes~~/letter/~~teletype~~/~~despatch~~/~~note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- ~~Top Secret~~
- ~~Secret~~
- Confidential
- ~~Restricted~~
- ~~Unclassified~~

President Mubarak

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I was most grateful for your message delivered to me on 4 October. I too attach the highest importance to keeping in close touch. I look back with enormous pleasure to my own visit to Egypt last month. It was particularly useful to have an extended talk with you about the many problems of the region.

I agree that the recent upsurge in violence has underlined the urgent need for progress towards peace. As you know we have condemned both the terrible Larnaca murders, and the Israeli reprisal raid. We recognise the strength of feeling in Israel, but this cannot justify such actions in violation of Tunisian sovereignty.

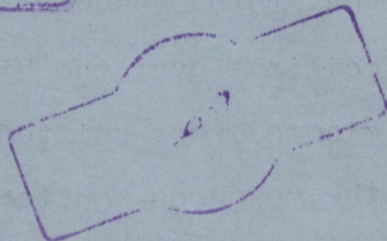
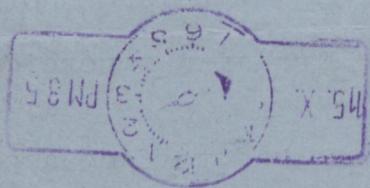
Since you wrote, you have had to face agonisingly difficult decisions over the hijacking of the Achille Lauro. I welcomed your swift denunciation of the hijacking, the measures you took to bring it to an end, and your prompt agreement to the return to the United Kingdom of the British crew members. This appalling incident has demonstrated once again the need for united international condemnation of terrorism, and action to combat it.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

/You

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You know how firmly I support the efforts which you and King Hussein are making to secure movement towards peace with Israel. My invitation to a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation to visit London was a practical demonstration of that support. I was deeply disappointed that at the last moment the Palestinian representatives refused to associate themselves with a previously agreed statement. Without this agreed basis the meeting could not take place. I am sad because this will I fear set back your own efforts and those of King Hussein. But I am convinced that the approach we discussed in Cairo remains the right one. We need to go on encouraging those on both sides who are willing to take risks for peace. Britain will certainly do so.



[Handwritten signature]

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