MIDDLE EAST

PS

PS/MR RENTON

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MR DEREK THOMAS

MR FERGUSSON -

MR EGERTON

HD/NENAD

HD/MED

IMMEDIATE

NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE DIO

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PUSD (2) NEWS DEPT

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

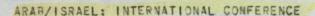
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OF 131330Z JANUARY 86

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, RIYADH

INFO PRIORITY AMMAN, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM, CAIRO, MOSCOW

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, BONN, PARIS, ROME



- 1. I ASKED MY US COLLEAGUE ABOUT THE LATEST US POSITION ON 13
 JANUARY. HE GAVE ME SOME NUANCES ADDITIONAL TO THE BASIC U S
 CONDITIONS SUMMARISED IN (WASHINGTON TELNO 75).
- 2. PICKERING SAID THEY WERE WORKING ON A NUMBER OF IDEAS WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO THE KING WITHOUT GOING OUTSIDE U. S. REQUIREMENTS. FOR INSTANCE, THE CONFERENCE MIGHT HAVE A SECRETARY—GENERAL WHO MIGHT RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS AND CIRCULATE THEM TO CONFERENCE MEMBERS. A FURTHER POSSIBILITY WAS THAT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT MEET QUARTERLY TO RECEIVE REPORTS BUT NOT TO COMMENT ON THEM. PICKERING SAID THE ESSENTIAL POINT WAS TO STICK TO THE BASIC CONCEPT OF DIRECT TALKS WITHOUT THIRD PARTY VETOES ON ANY AGREEMENTS REACHED BILATERALLY, SEMICOLON AND WITHOUT INSTITUTIONALISING THE CONFERENCE AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE ON ONE OF THE PARTIES. THESE WERE U. S. REQUIREMENTS AND HE THOUGHT (AND I AGREE) ESSENTIAL FOR ISRAEL TOO.
- 3. THERE WAS ALSO AN IDEA INSPIRED BY CLUVERIUS THAT THE U S SHOULD ENUNCIATE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IT WOULD JUDGE TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS. THIS HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN PROCEDURES AND MIGHT THEREFORE BE MORE HELPFUL TO THE KING. BUT IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT ISSUE TO HANDLE VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL (AND I DARE SAY IN ARAB COUNTRIES TOO) AND THE KING WOULD BE WELL AWARE THAT ANY PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN BY THE ADMINISTRATION COULD BE OVERTURNED BY THE CONGRESS.

man and

4. YOU MAY ALREAD BE AWARE AND IN MORE DETAIL OF THIS KIND
OF U S THINKING. I REPORT IT SINCE IT SUGGESTS A RATHER MORE ACTIVE
U S APPROACH TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE THAN HAD HITHERTO
BEEN APPARENT HERE.

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