

SUBJECT  
cc Ops  
Master

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 18/80

CONFIDENTIAL

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OCMIAN 1078  
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DD 290515Z RIYAD  
FM FCOLN TO RIYAD  
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OF 281415Z JANUARY 86

ARAB/ISRAEL

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO KING FAHD FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

BEGINS: SIR GEOFFREY HOWE HAS TOLD ME OF THE VALUABLE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE HAD WITH YOUR MAJESTY DURING HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA EARLIER THIS MONTH. I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAINING OUR REGULAR EXCHANGE ABOUT REGIONAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WHICH WOULD ALLOW ALL THE STATES AND PEOPLES OF THE AREA TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY. I THEREFORE WANT TO SHARE WITH YOUR MAJESTY MY PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS FOLLOWING THE TALKS WHICH GEOFFREY HOWE AND I HAD WITH MR PERES. OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO ANALYSIS OF WAYS OF MAKING EARLY PROGRESS TO OVERCOME THE REMAINING OBSTACLES TO THE START OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR KING HUSSEIN THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WHICH ENJOYS WIDE SUPPORT AMONG THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE ARAB WORLD AS A WHOLE. I BELIEVE THAT MR PERES ALSO NOW ACCEPTS THIS. HE MADE CLEAR IN HIS TALKS WITH ME THE STRENGTH OF HIS COMMITMENT TO START NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO ENVISAGE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. HE WOULD



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PREFER TO CARRY HIS COALITION PARTNERS WITH HIM ON THIS BUT HIS ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE IS LIMITED. I URGED MR PERES TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE AND TO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF ARAB CONCERNS. I BELIEVE THAT HE IS SINCERE AND WOULD GENUINELY LIKE TO FIND A WAY TO OVERCOME THE REMAINING DIFFICULTIES ON CONFERENCE PROCEDURES AND THE VITAL QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION.

MR PERES IS CONFIDENT THAT THERE IS SCOPE FOR BROAD AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES ON THE NATURE AND ROLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS STILL IMPORTANT WORK TO BE DONE, IN PARTICULAR IN DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE THE AFFAIR OF THE CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE, OR OF WORKING GROUPS WITH MORE LIMITED PARTICIPATION. MR PERES REPEATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT INVOLVEMENT IN A CONFERENCE BY PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BUT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD ABANDONED ITS UNHELPFUL ATTITUDE. I KNOW THAT YOU TOO SHARE MY RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOVIET POLICIES TOWARDS THE REGION. I HOPE THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN WILL FEEL ABLE TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH MR GORBACHEV THE SCOPE FOR PERSUADING THE SOVIET UNION TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN A CONFERENCE. MR PERES WAS ALSO DEEPLY SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE SYRIAN ATTITUDE. YOU HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN ENCOURAGING PRESIDENT ASAD AND KING HUSSEIN TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONSHIP. KING HUSSEIN TELLS ME THAT HE BELIEVES THAT HE HAS MADE A GOOD START IN HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. I HOPE THAT IT WILL NOW BE POSSIBLE FOR SYRIA AND JORDAN TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TOWARDS NEGOTIATIONS.

YOU KNOW THAT I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS IT IS VITAL TO INVOLVE AUTHORITATIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. I THINK THAT MR PERES NOW ACCEPTS THIS ALTHOUGH INVOLVEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANISATION CAUSES HIM GREAT DIFFICULTY. BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A CLEAR AND EXPLICIT STATEMENT BY THE PLO OF THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT.

I ALSO SPOKE FRANKLY TO MR PERES OF MY CONCERN ABOUT CONDITIONS



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IN THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. SIR GEOFFREY HOWE TOLD ME OF YOUR MAJESTY'S OWN ACUTE CONCERN OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS THERE. I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH ISRAEL CAN AND SHOULD MAKE IMPORTANT CHANGES AND WOULD BE SEEN IN THE ARAB WORLD AS A SIGNIFICANT GESTURE TO INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN ISRAEL'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE.

EFFORTS TO GET PEACE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED ARE NOW AT A DELICATE STAGE. I SHALL ALSO GIVE PRESIDENT REAGAN AN ACCOUNT OF MY IMPRESSIONS AND ENCOURAGE HIM TO USE HIS PERSONAL INFLUENCE TO ACHIEVE EARLY PROGRESS BEFORE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY IS LOST. I CAN ASSURE YOUR MAJESTY THAT WE SHALL BE READY TO HELP IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

I CONTINUE TO TAKE A CLOSE PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SALE OF TORNADO. I UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ARE PROGRESSING WELL AND THAT THE FIRST 6 TORNADOS ARE WELL ON THEIR WAY TO DELIVERY WITHIN THE AGREED TIMETABLE. I KNOW THAT RAF AND RSAF OFFICERS INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT HAVE BUILT UP A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. THE RAF HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIRST GROUP OF SAUDI ARABIAN TORNADO PILOTS WHO HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE FIRST STAGE OF THEIR TRAINING AT RAF COTTESMORE.

I AM DELIGHTED BY THE CONTINUING CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND SEND MY BEST WISHES TO YOUR MAJESTY.  
ENDS

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MIDDLE EAST

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