

SUBJECT

cc ops  
Master

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T19/86.

CONFIDENTIAL

11081 - 2

OCMIAN 11081  
CONFIDENTIAL  
OO CAIRO  
FM FCOLN TO CAIRO  
281415Z JAN  
GRS 689

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCO  
TO IMMEDIATE CAIRO  
TELNO 31  
OF 281415Z JANUARY 86

ARAB/ISRAEL

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

BEGINS: AS YOU MAY KNOW KING HUSSEIN HAS BEEN IN LONDON RECENTLY AND I HAD A TALK WITH HIM ON 16 JANUARY WHICH WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL JUST BEFORE THE VISIT TO LONDON OF THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER LAST WEEK. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION WHICH YOU PERSONALLY HAVE MADE TOWARDS THE GOAL WHICH WE ALL SHARE OF A START TO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, I WANT TO LET YOU HAVE MY PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS FOLLOWING THE TALKS WHICH GEOFFREY HOWE AND I HAD WITH MR PERES. OUR DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE 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 HAS WIDE SUPPORT AMONG THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE ARAB WORLD. 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



CONFIDENTIAL

11081 - 1

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 A BROAD AREA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDANON THE NATURE AND ROLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE IN RECONCILING THE JORDANIAN WISH THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD HAVE A CONTINUING ROLE AND MR PERES' WISH THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO IMPOSE SOLUTIONS OR OVERRULE DECISIONS REACHED BY THE PARTIES THROUGH DIRECT NEGOTIATION. MR PERES REPEATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT INVOLVEMENT IN A CONFERENCE BY PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BUT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED. 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. MR PERES WAS ALSO DEEPLY SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE SYRIAN ATTITUDE. KING HUSSEIN TELLS ME THAT HE BELIEVES HE HAS MADE A GOOD START IN REBUILDING HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. I HOPE THAT HE WILL SUCCEED IN PERSUADING THE SYRIANS THAT THE ACTIONS HE ENVISAGES DESERVE SUPPORT.

AS YOU KNOW FROM OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS 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 BELIEVE 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.

WE ALSO RAISED WITH MR PERES THE QUESTION OF THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE PALESTINIAN INHABITANTS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAVE TO LIVE. I TOLD HIM THAT THEIR PLIGHT DID NO GOOD TO ANYONE, LEAST OF ALL TO ISRAEL. I AM CONVINCED

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

11081 - 1

THAT REAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THIS AREA WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT GESTURE OF CONFIDENCE. I HOPE THAT WHEN I VISIT ISRAEL IN THE SUMMER I SHALL BE ABLE TO REPORT SOME IMPROVEMENT.

EFFORTS TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED ARE NOW AT A DELICATE STAGE. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH KING HUSSEIN. THE COURAGEOUS EFFORTS WHICH YOU HAVE MADE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL IN THE DISPUTE OVER TABA ARE A VITAL INGREDIENT IN BUILDING CONFIDENCE. I GREATLY VALUE OUR EXCHANGES ON THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES. YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON US TO HELP IN ANY WAY WE CAN. I LOOK FORWARD TO KEEPING CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR THINKING IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. ENDS.

HOWE

MIDDLE EAST .  
LIMITED  
NENAD  
MED  
NAD  
SOVIET D  
PLANNING STAFF  
UND  
ECD(E) (POCO UNIT)  
NEWS D  
INFO D  
PUSD  
SED  
SCD  
DEFENCE D

PS  
PS/MR RENTON  
PS/PUS  
MR FERGUSSON  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
MR GOODALL  
SIR D MIERS  
MR O'NEILL  
MR RATFORD  
MR LONG

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
ARAB/ISRAEL

-3-  
CONFIDENTIAL