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جامعة الجزائر

الأمين العام

Madam Prime Minister,

Allow me, first of all, to convey my best wishes for the success of the forthcoming Summit of the Seven most industrialized countries. We nurture great hopes that your meeting will pave the way to durable solutions of major economic problems as well as of the various conflicts with which the world is beset.

We believe that the decisions and measures to be reached at the Tokyo Meeting will have an enormous impact on the future of peace, mainly in the Mediterranean and Mideastern regions.

To be sure, the Arab-Israeli conflict remains the main threat in that part of the world and continues to drain off the human and material resources of the entire region. But, the Iraq-Iran war, which has been going on for five years and a half, has added to the complexity of the situation, by putting one of the most sensitive areas in the world into serious danger. Multiple initiatives have been made to put an end to the confrontation, but so far to no avail, and it has become increasingly obvious that only a vigorous action by the Major Powers could bring the recalcitrant party to enter a negotiated process and to accept the U.N. Security Council resolutions, much like the other party, Iraq, has done from the outset.

As far as the Near East conflict is concerned, the Arab States have, as you know, solemnly proclaimed their commitment to a comprehensive peaceful settlement, by adopting in September 1982 the Fez Plan - a plan based on international legality and recognizing, in its Seventh Point, the right of all the States of the region to live in peace. Accordingly, the Arab nation considers that it has, in this respect, fully assumed its responsibilities with regard to world peace and security, and that it is henceforth incumbent upon the Big Powers to assume their own, if they are to spare this troubled region the gravest calamities.



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Experience has shown that any fragmentary approach, any partial solution which does not get to the core of the problem, namely enabling the Palestinian people to recover its full national rights, can only further complicate the situation and add to the perils besetting the region. At this point, we cannot fail to express our belief that the implementation of a plan for the development of the Middle East, at a time when all the major problems are still unresolved, could only produce higher levels of tension and more exacerbated antagonisms.

A long-term development strategy of this magnitude requires a stable environment, favourable to cooperation between the different States of the region. If the "Marshall Plan" has had the success we know, it is precisely because it came as the crowning effect of a large-scale restructuring process marking the end of the grave conflicts which had torn Europe apart. We are all too far from such a situation in the Middle East, and it is amply clear that what is needed first of all is a peace-plan, a global peace guaranteed by the Big Powers.

Once this first and necessary step has been achieved, then the idea of a Mideast development plan will be welcomed and fully adhered to by all the peoples and States of the region.

I should also like to call your attention to the situation in South Lebanon which continues to deteriorate as a result of Israel's refusal to implement Resolutions 508 and 509 of the Security Council calling for the total withdrawal of occupation-forces from Lebanon. The interventions, directly or through proxy forces, into the affairs of Lebanon, the nibbling and annexation of territories, the all but daily exactions against the populations can only heighten the threat of a new conflagration which would set the whole region ablaze.



There can be no ending the current situation without renouncing the logics of force and respecting the will of the international community. There lies the root-cause of the recent escalation of terrorist actions which preoccupies our countries as much as it does yours. It is a drift of unpredictable consequences to which counter-violence, no matter what form it may take, cannot be an adequate response.

Madam Prime Minister,

The Tokyo Meeting takes place at a highly critical international juncture. It may bring a noticeable contribution to a fresh process likely to ease on both economic and political fronts, international relations and with particular regard to our region, create a climate of detente favourable to dialogue.

As we express the hope that your country will throw in all its weight so that the Summit of the Seven Major Industrial Powers will lead to a peace initiative in the Near and Middle East, please accept, Madam Prime Minister, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Chedli Klibi

Secretary General  
League of Arab States

Her Excellency  
Mrs. Margaret THATCHER  
Prime Minister  
LONDON







Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 May 1986

Dear Charles,

Message from Secretary General of Arab League

24.4.86  
/ I enclose the original of the message to the Prime Minister  
/ from Mr Klibi, Secretary General of the Arab League, reported in  
Tunis telegram 107, with a draft reply. I propose that if the  
Prime Minister is content with the draft, it should be  
delivered by our Ambassador in Tunis.

Yours ever,

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street