



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 May 1986

File MFJ
cc Bro
Sir P. C. Adcock

Dear Secretary-General.

Thank you for your message of 26 April, your good wishes for the Tokyo Summit and for sharing with me your views on Middle East issues.

The British Government remains steadfastly committed to promote a just and lasting settlement of the Arab/Israel dispute, based on the twin principles of the Palestinian right to self-determination and Israel's right to security. I strongly supported King Hussein's efforts to achieve progress. I shall continue to look for practical ways of moving the process forward again, particularly during my forthcoming visit to Israel. I agree that the economic problems facing a number of Middle Eastern countries also require our attention, though not as a substitute for finding political solutions to political problems.

We remain committed to seeing the withdrawal of all unauthorised foreign forces from Lebanon, and we support the efforts of the UN Secretary General to secure agreement to the deployment of UNIFIL to the international border in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425. I was able to discuss this with Senor Perez de Cuellar during his recent visit to London and shall pursue the matter when I go to Israel.

I also reaffirmed to Senor Perez de Cuellar our support for his efforts to bring to an end the fighting between Iran and Iraq.

I hope that you will welcome the measures agreed at the Tokyo Economic Summit to deal with terrorism, particularly state-sponsored terrorism. We need close international co-operation on such measures together with fresh efforts to resolve the conflicts and instability on which the terrorist thrives.

I look forward to being able to discuss these issues with you when you visit London in July, at the beginning of our Presidency of the European Community.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Mr Chedli Klibi



file 116
cc Sir K Sabok

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 May 1986

**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE ARAB LEAGUE**

Thank you for your letter of 14 May enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Mr. Klibi's recent message.

The draft has been somewhat amended and I enclose a signed letter to Mr. Klibi. Subject to any further comments you may have, it may be despatched.

CHARLES POWELL

Robert Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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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

OUT TELEGRAM

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10 MR KLIBI'S MESSAGE OF 26 APRIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER

11

12 1. Please take an early opportunity to call on Klibi and deliver

13 the Prime Minister's reply. Text as follows:

14 Begins: Thank you for your message of 26 April, your good

15 wishes for the Tokyo Summit and for sharing with me your views on

16 Middle East issues. ~~I attach great importance to a continuing~~

17 dialogue with Arab representatives and share your belief ^{that it} ~~in the~~

18 ^{is urgent} ~~urgency of efforts to resolve the region's conflicts.~~ I make my

19 views on these questions very clear, ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ close ^{contact,} ~~touch~~ with our

20 European partners, and with President Reagan, and will do so also

21 ~~during my visit to Israel later this month.~~

22 As ~~you know~~ ^{the} British Government is committed to promote a

23 just and lasting settlement of the Arab/Israel dispute, based on

24 the twin principles of the Palestinian right to self-

25 determination and Israel's right to security. ~~I am convinced~~

/// 26 ~~that these are the only sound foundations for the region's future~~

// 27 ~~peace and prosperity.~~ ^{strongly} I supported in particular King Hussein's

/ 28 ~~commendable~~ efforts to achieve progress and regret that more

29 could not be achieved. I shall continue to look energetically

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Authorised for despatch by: Initials Date/time			
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

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2 for practical ways of moving the process forward again.)

3 I am also concerned at the serious economic problems facing
 4 many countries in the area. We are doing what we can to help
 5 them, and will also play our full part in the appropriate
 6 multilateral institutions. But I agree that this is only one

7 facet of the many challenges governments in the region face, and
 8 that political problems require political solutions.

9 We have consistently called for the withdrawal of all
 10 unauthorised foreign forces from Lebanon. Britain voted in
 11 favour of Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509. We firmly
 12 believe that UNIFIL can play a vital role in restoring stability
 13 to South Lebanon. We support the efforts of the UN Secretary
 14 General to secure agreement to the deployment of UNIFIL to the
 15 international border in accordance with Security Council
 16 resolution 425. I was able to discuss this with him during
 17 his recent visit to London & shall pursue the matter with him when I go to Israel at the end of the month.

18 The continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq is no less
 19 tragic and has exacted an appalling toll of death and suffering.

20 We wholeheartedly support the continuing efforts of the UN
 21 Secretary General, which we believe hold out the best hope of
 22 bringing the fighting to an early end. We, and our partners in
 23 the Twelve, have given our support to SCR 581 and urged that it
 24 is accepted immediately and in full.

25 I greatly welcomed the agreement at the Summit on measures to
 26 combat terrorism, particularly state-sponsored terrorism. This
 27 is a challenge which I believe we must face together, through
 28 determined international cooperation, and in parallel with
 29 efforts to resolve the conflicts and instability on which the
 30 terrorist thrives.

31 I know that Geoffrey Howe attaches great importance to
 32 discussing all these issues with you and that he is inviting you
 33 to visit London in July, at the beginning of our Presidency. I
 34 hope that we shall also have an opportunity for a talk then.
 Ends.

we
to also
discussed
at Tokyo
we

I also
referred to
Gen. Perez
de Cuellar
our

I hope
that you
will
welcome
the
measures
agreed at
Tokyo
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Catchword:

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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.

- 2 -

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

