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FROM FCO 221200Z OCTOBER 82
TO ROUTINE TUNIS
TELEGRAM NUMBER 80 OF 22 OCTOBER

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No.

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE

1. CHEDLI KLIBI SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE IN BRIGHTON ON 4 OCTOBER:
DEAR PRIME MINISTER

I SEND YOU MY WARMEST GOOD WISHES ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR PARTY'S CONFERENCE, AND FOR SUCCESSFUL WORTHWHILE DELIBERATIONS. MAY I ALSO AT THIS CRITICAL TIME IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE MIDDLE EAST - APPEAL TO YOU TO EMBARK UPON POSITIVE ACTION TO ELEVATE THE PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

THIS, I BELIEVE, CAN BE ACHIEVED VIA REALISTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. THIS IS DOUBTLESS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH A JUST, SECURE, AND LASTING PEACE CAN BE OBTAINED, AND I EARNESTLY REQUEST OF YOU TO EXERCISE YOUR WORLD RENOWNED POSITION TO HELP TO OBTAIN THE UNITED NATIONS DESIRES.

TO ACHIEVE THIS END I HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR VALID HELP AND SUPPORT, AND AT THE SAME TIME URGE YOU TO INITIATE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT TOP LEVEL TALKS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE PLO WHO ARE THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THIS HAS NOW BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE OTHER BRITISH POLITICAL PARTIES AND I TRUST THAT YOUR CONFERENCE WILL MAKE A SIMILAR PRONOUNCEMENT.

KINDEST REGARDS YOUR SINCERELY

CHADLI KLIBI SECRETARY GENERAL LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TUNIS

2. PLEASE NOW PASS THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO KLIBI:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 4 OCTOBER ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AND FOR YOUR KIND WISHES ON THE PARTY CONFERENCE.

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AS YOU KNOW, WE SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A SETTLEMENT WHICH EMBODIES THIS PRINCIPLE, AS WELL AS PROVIDING SECURITY FOR ALL STATES IN THE REGION INCLUDING ISRAEL. FOLLOWING THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN BEIRUT, THERE IS NOW WIDE RECOGNITION THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE MUST BE ENABLED TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS. I WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT THE ARAB SUMMIT MEETING AT FEZ REACHED AGREEMENT ON A SET OF OBJECTIVES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. PRESIDENT PEACAN HAS PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS ALSO, PROPOSALS WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE A REALISTIC BASIS FOR PROGRESS, EVEN IF THEY FALL SHORT IN SOME RESPECTS OF ARAB WISHES. OUR POSITION ON TALKS WITH PLO LEADERS IS WELL KNOWN. THEY NOW FACE A PERIOD OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS. IF THEY CAN MAKE AN ABSOLUTELY CLEAR STATEMENT WHICH ACCEPTS ISRAEL'S RIGHTS AS PART OF A SATISFACTORY COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, AND CONFIRMS THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE PEACEFUL PATH TO A SETTLEMENT, THAT WOULD BE A MOST IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD.

PYM

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