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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 October 1982

Dear John,

*Over the
10/26*

Visit of the Arab League Delegation

As you know, we have been looking at the ceremonial arrangements for the visit of King Hassan of Morocco. We consider that it would be appropriate, and helpful to our relations with the King, if the Prime Minister could meet the King and accompanying delegation with a guard of honour in the FCO quadrangle. I should be grateful for your confirmation that the Prime Minister would be prepared to do this.

The guard would be mounted in honour of King Hassan as Head of State who would take the salute. We envisage that the accompanying Foreign Ministers would stand behind the saluting point with the Prime Minister and Mr Pym and we would not expect them to participate in the ceremony itself. As is usual on these occasions we would arrange for a press and VIP enclosure behind the saluting point on either side of the main archway. After the ceremony the Prime Minister would conduct King Hassan to 10 Downing Street for tête-à-tête talks: Mr Pym would take the remainder of the delegation for separate talks before joining the Prime Minister for the plenary session.

As you know, the dates of the Arab League Delegation's visit are once more in flux. We shall let you know the latest position as soon as possible.

*Yours ever
John Holmes*

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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