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FM FCO 252030Z NOV 82
TO IMMEDIATE RABAT
TELEGRAM NUMBER 853 OF 25 NOVEMBER
AND TO IMMEDIATE ALGIERS, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, TUNIS
INFO IMMEDIATE OTHER ME POSTS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS

A.J.C. ²⁶/₁₁
h-a.

MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM

1. THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MY MESSAGE.
BEGINS

I HAVE CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY THE ARGUMENTS WHICH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE HAVE PUT TO US ON THE QUESTION OF RECEIVING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLO IN THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION DUE TO VISIT LONDON ON 1-2 DECEMBER. I FULLY RECOGNISE THE VERY STRONG VIEWS HELD ON THIS POINT ON THE ARAB SIDE. IN RETURN I WOULD ASK YOU TO ACCEPT THAT THIS HAS POSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR US. OUR LONGSTANDING AND PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED POLICY HAS BEEN THAT BRITISH MINISTERS WOULD ONLY MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLO IF THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE. WE HAVE ADDED THAT THE KIND OF STEP WE HAVE IN MIND IS THAT THE PLO SHOULD MAKE CLEARER THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL'S RIGHTS AS PART OF A SETTLEMENT MEETING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE RENOUNCED TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS.

WE HAVE VERY POSITIVE REASONS FOR THIS. OUR SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IS WELL KNOWN. WE HAVE SAID THAT THE PLO MUST BE ASSOCIATED WITH NEGOTIATIONS. AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE AMBIGUITIES WHICH REMAIN ABOUT THEIR ATTITUDE TO ISRAEL AND TO TERRORISM ARE A HINDRANCE RATHER THAN A HELP TO THE SECURING OF THESE RIGHTS THROUGH SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

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WE HAVE REVIEWED OUR POLICY AGAIN IN THE LIGHT OF THE URGENT REPRESENTATIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE ARAB SIDE. WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE VISIT OF THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION, WHICH WILL BE A VERY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL HOW PROGRESS CAN BE MADE TOWARDS PEACE IN THE LIGHT OF THE FEZ COMMUNIQUE AND THE OTHER PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD RECENTLY. I WISHED TO LET YOU KNOW OUR CONCLUSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE THE FULL ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION, INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLO, PROVIDED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING THE PLO WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF A STATEMENT WHICH WE WOULD PUBLISH BEFORE THE MEETING. THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT WE PROPOSE TO MAKE IS ATTACHED. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO CLARIFY THE UNDERSTANDING, WHICH I BELIEVE WE ALL SHARE, OF THE FEZ COMMUNIQUE.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONFIRM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT YOU AGREE WITH THE TERMS OF THIS STATEMENT. OUR PROPOSED ACTION WOULD REPRESENT A MARKED ADVANCE SO FAR AS THE PLO ARE CONCERNED ON OUR PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH THEM. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING YOU IN LKONDON NEXT WEEK.
ENDS.

PYM

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