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TO IMMEDIATE JEDDA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 400 OF 8 DECEMBER
INFO AMMAN RABAT DAMASCUS WASHINGTON TUNIS ALGIERS

ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION

PLEASE NOW PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO KING FAHD

BEGINS: I THOUGHT I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW HOW DISAPPOINTED I AM
THAT IT DID NOT PROVE POSSIBLE FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION
TO VISIT LONDON LAST WEEK. LORD CARRINGTON HAS TOLD ME OF HIS
CONVERSATIONS WITH CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH AND PRINCE SULTAN
DURING HIS RECENT VISIT AND I KNOW HOW DISAPPOINTED YOU WERE TOO.
THE BRITISH POSITION IS NOT MEANT TO BE RESTRICTIVE OR
NEGATIVE. OVER THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED AS
MUCH AS ANY WESTERN COUNTRY TO THE NOW ALMOST UNIVERSAL
RECOGNITION THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO SELF-
DETERMINATION. THE SOONER ALL THE PARTIES TO THE ARAB-ISRAEL
DISPUTE, AND THOSE WHO WISH TO HELP THEM, CAN SIT DOWN TOGETHER
AND DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS WITHIN A REALISTIC AND POSITIVE
FRAMEWORK, THE SOONER THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WILL BE PUT IN A
POSITION TO EXERCISE THAT RIGHT. I DO NOT BELIEVE A CHANGE
IN BRITISH POLICY OR MINISTERIAL CONTACTS WITH THE PLO, IN THE
ABSENCE OF STEPS BY THE PLO WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD GREATLY
STRENGTHEN THEIR DIPLOMATIC POSITION, ARE LIKELY TO HELP TO
BRING THIS ABOUT. OUR POSITION ON CONTACTS WITH THE PLO IS
BASED ON OUR CONVICTION THAT PLO ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF
ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IN PEACE AND SECURITY, IF ISRAEL IS
PREPARED TO ACCEPT LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND OF THE
NEED FOR A SETTLEMENT TO BE REACHED BY PEACEFUL MEANS, IS

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A NECESSARY STEP IF THERE ARE TO BE REALISTIC NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS. IT IS VITAL FOR BOTH SIDES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS BROAD AGREEMENT BETWEEN US ON MANY ASPECTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM; AND I AM SADDENED THAT THIS PRESENT DISAGREEMENT SHOULD HAVE ARISEN WHEN I WAS SO MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES WITH KING HASSAN AND HIS DELEGATION. I HOPE A WAY CAN BE FOUND, CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES OF OURSELVES AND THE ARAB PEOPLES, FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO COME TO LONDON AND FOR US TO HAVE THE PLEASURE OF RECEIVING THEM. I SHOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU IN ANY EVENT THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE PART AS WE CAN IN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. WE HAVE FOR EXAMPLE BEEN PRESSING THE AMERICANS HARD ON THE URGENT NEED FOR ISRAEL TO IMPLEMENT THE SETTLEMENTS FREEZE PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I ATTACH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE IMPORTANCE TO HAVING THE VIEWS OF YOUR MAJESTY ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS OF SUCH CONCERN TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. ENDS

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