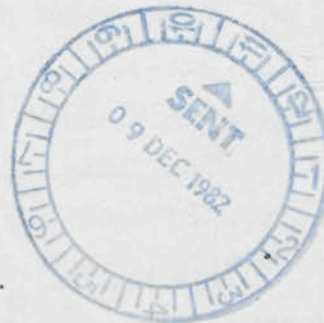


MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

16

PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
HD/MED
HD/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10



HD/... ..

ED/CONSULAR DEPT

... ..

... ..

PUSD (2)
NEWS D
~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

GPS 1200

CONFIDENTIAL

ADVANCE COPY

DESKBY 101000Z FCO AND UKDEL NATO

FM RABAT 100810Z DEC 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

IMMEDIATE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 495 OF 10 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY)

MIDDLE EAST POSTS, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, MOSCOW

INFO SAVING PEKING, TEHRAN

FROM EGERTON

ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT TO LONDON

1. SUMMARY. A CORDIAL MEETING. THE KING DECLARED THE AFFAIR OF THE DECEMBER ARAB LEAGUE VISIT CLOSED. HE IS ANXIOUS TO REINSTATE IT IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND IS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE ABOUT PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION. HE WANTS A FIRM DATE FOR THE VISIT TO LONDON AGREED AND ANNOUNCED SOON, WITHOUT RISK OF FURTHER POSTPONEMENT. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE AND APPRECIATIVE OF ITS CONTENTS.

2. LORD CHALFONT WAS RECEIVED BY KING HASSAN LATE ON 9 DECEMBER. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA AND I WERE PRESENT. THE KING WAS DELAYED AND LORD CHALFONT

DECEMBER. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA AND I WERE PRESENT. THE KING WAS RELAXED, AND LORD CHALFONT FOUND BOTH MINISTER OF COURT MOULAY HAFID AND BOUCETTA MORE AMENABLE THAN USUAL. WE ALSO CHATTED TO GENERAL DLIMI (CHIEF MILITARY ADVISER) IN THE ANTEROOM.

3. LORD CHALFONT RECALLED THAT WHEN HE HAD LAST SEEN THE KING AFTER THE ROYAL ACADEMY MEETING, HASSAN HAD BEEN UPSET ABOUT HMG'S HANDLING OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO LONDON. LORD CHALFONT HAD UNDERTAKEN TO LOOK INTO THE BACKGROUND AND NOW CARRIED A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE KING FROM MRS THATCHER. BUT HE WOULD FIRST LIKE TO CLEAR AWAY MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE FORM OF THE MESSAGE (FROM THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TO A HEAD OF STATE), AND ABOUT ITS SIMULTANEOUS DELIVERY TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM. BOTH HAD BEEN CAUSED NOT BY DISCOURTESY BUT BECAUSE TIME WAS SO SHORT AFTER HMG LEARNED THAT A PLO REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TEAM, CONTRARY TO THEIR UNDERSTANDING UNTIL 22 NOVEMBER. HMG APOLOGISED FOR ANY SEEMING DISCOURTESY. HE THEN EXPLAINED HMG'S POLICY ON CONTACTS WITH THE PLO AT HIGH MINISTERIAL LEVEL, WHICH WAS OF LONG STANDING AND WELL UNDERSTOOD BY THE PLO. HE NEXT DELIVERED THE PRIME MINISTER'S ORAL MESSAGE IN THE TERMS AUTHORISED, STRESSING THAT WE REMAINED KEEN TO REINSTATE THE VISIT. WE WERE NOT COMMITTED TO THE PRECISE WORDING OF THE DRAFT STATEMENT WE HAD PROPOSED, NOR INDEED TO THAT METHOD OF PROCEEDING IF ANOTHER COULD BE DEvised WHICH SATISFIED OUR AND THE ARABS' PRINCIPLES. LORD CHALFONT STRESSED THAT MRS THATCHER HERSELF WOULD NOT (NOT) BE PREPARED TO MEET A MEMBER OF THE PLO.

4. ON PROTOCOL ASPECTS, LORD CHALFONT EXPLAINED WHY THE PROGRAMME VIRTUALLY AGREED FOR 1 AND 2 DECEMBER HAD SEEMED LONG DRAWN OUT. THE TIMING COULD BE MADE EASIER FOR THE KING NEXT TIME, PROVIDED WE HAD ENOUGH NOTICE. HIS INVITATION TO PAY A EARLY BILATERAL WORKING VISIT STOOD, AND WAS EAGERLY AWAITED.

5. THE KING WARMLY WELCOMED LORD CHALFONT IN HIS ROLE AS SPECIAL EMISSARY, SINCE HE COULD SEE BOTH SIDES OF THE AFFAIR. IT HAD STARTED BADLY, PARTLY BECAUSE WE HAD HAD NO AMBASSADOR AT RABAT. BUT THE VISIT ITSELF HAD NOT BEEN CANCELLED; HE MUCH WANTED TO BRING HIS TEAM TO BRITAIN. BUT THE FOREIGN OFFICE SHOULD REALISE THAT, AFTER FEZ, THE MODERATE ARABS WERE UNITED AND COULD NOT BE PLAYED OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER. HE THEN CLAIMED THAT PLO INCLUSION IN THE TEAM TO VISIT LONDON HAD NOT BEEN A CONDITION OF THE VISIT. THE RELEVANT FEZ RESOLUTION HAD SAID THE FULL TEAM WOULD

THE RELEVANT FEZ RESOLUTION HAD SAID THE FULL TEAM WOULD VISIT PEKING, MOSCOW AND PARIS. BUT THE ARABS' POLITICAL IMPERATIVE WAS TO TRY AND WIN AS WIDE RECOGNITION AS POSSIBLE FOR THE PLO. LIKE THE FRENCH, WE HAD A PLO OFFICE IN LONDON. IF HMG HAD SIMPLY SAID QUOTE NO UNQUOTE TO THE REQUEST TO INCLUDE THE PLO IN THE TEAM, HE AS LEADER OF THE TEAM WOULD NOT HAVE INSISTED. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD BEEN ASKED FORMALLY BY THE ARAB LEAGUE TO INCLUDE A PLO MEMBER, THE KING CLAIMED THAT AS SOON AS HE HAD HEARD OF KLIBI'S STATEMENT, HE HAD DEMANDED ITS RETRACTION, WHICH HAD BEEN CARRIED IN A NEWSPAPER THE FOLLOWING DAY. I SAID THAT THE LEAGUE HAD NOT TOLD US. THE KING SMILED AND SAID THAT ALL COMPLICATIONS IN THIS AFFAIR HAD STEMMED FROM THE FCO. IN FUTURE HE WOULD DEAL WITH NO 10 DIRECT. LORD CHALFONT POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO AMBASSADOR IN RABAT BECAUSE MR CAMBRIDGE HAD BEEN HELD BACK IN LONDON SO THAT HE COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE KING. WE NOW HOPED HE COULD PRESENT CREDENTIALS WITHOUT DELAY.

6. THE KING THEN SAID THAT THE AFFAIR OF THE DECEMBER VISIT WAS CLOSED. WE SHOULD CONSIDER WAYS OF RESCHEDULING IT. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS QUICKLY TO AGREE AND THEN ANNOUNCE A DATE. HMG SHOULD SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THE SUBSTANCE. HOW WOULD IT BE IF, WHILE HE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE BEING RECEIVED BY MRS THATCHER, THE PLO MEMBER OF THE TEAM WERE RECEIVED QUOTE IN THE MARGINS UNQUOTE BY A MINISTER NOT IN THE CABINET? LORD CHALFONT ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY TRUTH IN PRESS REPORTS QUOTING ARAFAT AS SAYING THAT THE FEZ FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE WOULD MEET SHORTLY TO CONSIDER ITS REPORT ON ITS VISITS TO WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW AND PEKING. THE KING DENIED THIS CATEGORICALLY. HE THEN RAN THROUGH HIS OWN CALENDAR FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR AND JANUARY, SAYING THAT HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD SOON BE IN TOUCH TO SUGGEST EARLY AGREEMENT ON A DATE IN THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF FEBRUARY. HE ADDED THAT WHEN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, IT WAS VITAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO (NO) FURTHER POSTPONEMENTS. SO WE SHOULD IN DUE COURSE SEND SOMEBODY OUT FROM LONDON TO SIT WITH OUR AMBASSADOR IN THE KING'S PROTOCOL OFFICE (LIKE GENERAL WALTERS BEFORE HE TOOK THE TEAM TO WASHINGTON), SO AS TO SETTLE ALL FURTHER DETAILS WITHOUT ARGUMENT OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

7. LORD CHALFONT UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THESE SUGGESTIONS AND SET IN HAND AN URGENT CORRELATION OF DIARIES. IN REPLY TO AN ASIDE FROM THE KING HE CONFIRMED WE WOULD DEAL PRIMARILY WITH HIM BOTH ON PROTOCOL MATTERS AND ON THE BASIS OF EG PLO INCLUSION IN THE

Bohny
30k

~~ON PROTOCOL MATTERS AND ON THE BASIS OF EG PLO INCLUSION IN THE~~
TEAM. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT KLIBI AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ARAB LEAGUE COULD VISIT LONDON WHEN HE LIKED, BUT DISCUSSIONS ON
THE SUBSTANCE SHOULD BE BETWEEN MR CAMBRIDGE AND BOUCETTA IN
THE FIRST PLACE, NOT (NOT) THROUGH THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN
LONDON.

8. I SAID THAT AN ALTERNATIVE WAY ROUND THE PLO PROBLEM WHICH THE
KING MIGHT LIKE TO CONSIDER WOULD BE FOR THE PLO TO AGREE TO
NOMINATE A PALESTINIAN MAYOR WHO WAS NOT (NOT) A PLO
OFFICIAL TO REPRESENT THEM ON THE DELEGATION. AN ELECTED WEST BANK
MAYOR WAS AN OBVIOUS POSSIBILITY. THE KING AGREED THAT THE
IDEA WAS WORTH CONSIDERING AND INSTRUCTED BOUCETTA TO LOOK INTO
IT.

9. THE MEETING , WHICH TOOK PLACE AFTER THE KING HAD SEEN KING
FAHD OFF TO FEZ AND RIYADH AT THE END OF HIS HOLIDAY, LASTED JUST
OVER AN HOUR.

10. BY AGREEMENT WITH LORD CHALFONT AND HMA, I TOLD
BOUCETTA THAT WE HAD A PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR HIM FROM MR
PYM, AND THAT IT WOULD BE DELIVERED BY HMA WHEN HE GAVE
BOUCETTA THE COPIES OF HIS LETTERS. BOUCETTA UNDERTOOK TO
GIVE MR CAMBRIDGE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THIS DUAL PURPOSE
DURING 10 DECEMBER, AND THANKED MR PYM FOR THIS GESTURE.

11. THE MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL RELEASE ON 10 DECEMBER A
FACTUAL STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT LORD CHALFONT WAS RECEIVED BY
THE KING IN HIS CAPACITY AS A SPECIAL EMISSARY OF MRS
THATCHER WITH THE AIM OF RESOLVING THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH
HAVE ARISEN OVER THE POSTPONED ARAB LEAGUE VISIT TO LONDON.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING PEKING AND TEHRAN

CAMBRIDGE

NNNN