

MIDDLE ST: ADVANCE COPIES

15

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

IMMEDIATE

Mr Goodwin

NO 10 DOWNING STREET
CABINET OFFICE D10

HD/... ..

ED/CONSULAR DEPT

... ..

... ..

PUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK



Prime Minister:
The Secretary
General of the
Arab League will
not be coming
after all

TF
20/12

GRS 300
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 301145Z
FM TUNIS 301012Z DECEMBER 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 288 OF 30 DECEMBER
INFO PRIORITY RABAT
INFO ROUTINE OTHER ME POSTS WASHINGTON UKMIS NEW YORK

YOUR TEL NO 117 AND MY TEL NO 284 (NOT REPEATED): VISIT BY ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL.

SUMMARY.

1. KLIBI HAS DECIDED THAT IT WOULD AFTER ALL BE PREMATURE TO VISIT LONDON AT THIS STAGE.

DETAIL.

2. I PURSUED THIS ON 29 DECEMBER. KLIBI COULD NOT GIVE AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER (HE WAS ENGAGED WITH A VISITING DELEGATION) BUT IT WAS EVIDENT THAT HE WAS GETTING COLD FEET.

3. OMRAN TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT AFTER THINKING IT OVER, KLIBI AND HE HAD DECIDED THAT THE VISIT WOULD BE TOO RISKY. KLIBI WAS WARMLY GRATEFUL FOR THE PROMPT WELCOME FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOURSELF AND HIS OBJECT IN SUGGESTING A CONFIDENTIAL VISIT HAD BEEN TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. HOWEVER, IT WAS FELT THAT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTRACTING MISLEADING PUBLICITY AND OF APPEARING TO CROSS WIRES WITH KING HASSAN OUTWEIGHTED THE ADVANTAGES. KLIBI, OF COURSE, STOOD READY TO GIVE WHATEVER HELP HE COULD AND HE WOULD LIKE TO COME TO LONDON WHEN BOTH SIDES CONSIDERED IT OPPORTUNE.

4. IT IS FAIRLY CLEAR THAT, THOUGH THEIR INTENTIONS WERE GOOD, NEITHER KLIBI NOR OMRAN HAD THOUGHT THINGS THROUGH WHEN SUGGESTING THE VISIT. THEY HAD APPARENTLY ENVISAGED A SECRET MEETING AT WHICH THE PROBLEM OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO LONDON COULD BE LARGELY RESOLVED. THEY HAVE NOW TAKEN IT IN THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT SECRECY AND THEY ARE ALSO UNCOMFORTABLY AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ANNOYING KING HASSAN. THEY THEREFORE THINK IT WISER TO STAY ON THE SIDELINES FOR THE MOMENT. HOWEVER, THEY HOPE THAT THERE CAN BE AN EARLY DECISION ON THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION'S VISIT, SINCE THEY FEAR THAT THE SITUATION MAY DETERIORATE IF DISCUSSIONS ARE PROLONGED.

STIRLING

NNNN

SENT/RECD AT 30/1104Z SP/RW

NOTE FOR THE RECORD



10 DOWNING STREET

ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION.

TF heard that Mr
Kubi (Arab League Sec. Gen)
would no longer be
visiting the PM on
6.1.83.

Duty Clerk

36.12.82