



*Lg. [Signature]*

(2)

*Prime Minister*

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PRIME MINISTER

*[Signature]*

ARAB/ISRAEL

*[Signature]*

I have seen the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute to you of 6th June.

2. I should like to register my support for his approach. Western security interests may be put at risk, not only by the spread of violence on the West Bank itself, but by the tensions a continuing stalemate will engender among other States in this strategically vital area. If we can guide the Nine towards agreeing on a sustained peace effort which steers clear of the courses most objectionable to the US, this can only improve the general context for the US's own efforts to guarantee the region's security. It should help us maintain the standing we need to make our own distinctive contribution, both political and military, to consolidation and deterrence in face of a growing Soviet threat. It also has a considerable bearing on the prospects for our relations with individual Arab States, including the future of our defence sales effort. I would therefore welcome a statement by EEC Heads of State and Governments on the lines indicated in Peter Carrington's minute.

3. I am copying this to other members of OD and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*[Signature]*

Ministry of Defence

9th June 1980



10 JUN 1899

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Secretary of Defense

Washington, D.C.