

OPS

Subject copy filed on
Middle East PC9
situation

DWF G 155/1

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.344/82

LWY 644/01

OO FCO

RR TEL AVIV

RR WASHINGTON

GRS 1100

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CAIRO 010900Z MAR 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 105 OF 1 MARCH

INFO TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON

MY IPT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MUBARAK TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT:

BEGINS

1. THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY PLEASED AND SATISFIED WITH THE TALKS HE HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER THATCHER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT. THE WARM AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE TALKS WERE HELD TESTIFIES TO THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION THAT EXIST AMONG OUR COUNTRIES. THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS WAS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CAN PLAY TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. AS PRESIDENT MUBARAK INDICATED, WE ARE UNEQUIVOCALLY DETERMINED TO CONTINUE OUR PEACE POLICY FOR THE GOOD OF ALL NATIONS. WE SPARED NO EFFORT TO REASSURE THE ISRAELIS THAT PEACE, TO US, IS A STRATEGIC LINE OF POLICY AND A FIRM COMMITMENT WHICH WE WILL NOT VIOLATE. THE PRESIDENT MADE IT A POINT TO STATE THAT EGYPT ACCEPTS NO CONDITION REGARDING ITS PEACE POLICY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY. WE ALSO STATED THAT THE COMPLETION OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI WILL SIGNAL A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS AMONG THE TWO PEOPLES AS IT IS CERTAIN TO REMOVE ANOTHER PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIER ALONG THE ROAD TO FULL PEACE.

3. THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IS PROCEEDING VERY SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM. IN THE NORMALIZATION TALKS,

SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM. IN THE NORMALIZATION TALKS, EGYPT HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN A VERY POSITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ATTITUDE. THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS, HELD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR A FEW DAYS AGO PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS.

4. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT ALSO, PRESIDENT MUBARAK EXPRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HIS WILLINGNESS TO VISIT ISRAEL AT ANY TIME. NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON OUR PART TO POSTPONE THAT VISIT UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF WITHDRAWAL. NO CONDITION WAS SET FOR UNDERTAKING THE VISIT BUT AN EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT ISRAEL WILL APPLY SELF RESTRAINT AND REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION THAT IS APT TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION OR INCREASE TENSION IN THE REGION. PRESIDENT MUBARAK RECALLS THAT THIS CONCERN WAS SHARED BY PRIME MINISTER THATCHER DURING THE RECENT TALKS.

5. THE PRESIDENT WAS PLANNING TO PAY THAT VISIT AROUND THE MIDDLE OF MARCH. WHEN CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES WERE STARTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AGREEING ON THE PROGRAM, THE ISRAELIS PROPOSED THAT THE PRESIDENT VISIT JERUSALEM. WE TOLD THEM THAT A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO THE HOLY CITY WOULD CREATE SEVERAL PROBLEMS IN THE LIGHT OF THE ISRAELI LAW OF 1980 WHICH ANNEXED EAST JERUSALEM TO ISRAEL AND CONSIDERED THE "UNIFIED CITY" THE ETERNAL CAPITAL OF ISRAEL. PRIME MINISTER THATCHER IS CERTAINLY AWARE OF THE UNIVERSAL REJECTION OF THIS ACT WHICH WAS REFLECTED IN A UNANIMOUS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. SHE IS ALSO AWARE OF THE COMMOTION IT STIRRED IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD.

6. FOLLOWING THE PROMULGATION OF THIS LAW, PRESIDENT SADAT ORDERED THE SUSPENSION OF THE AUTONOMY TALKS AND ADDRESSED THREE URGENT MESSAGES TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, DRAWING HIS ATTENTION TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MATTER. THE LATE PRESIDENT WAS INCLINED TO BAN ANY VISITS TO THE CITY BY EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS. IN AN ATTEMPT TO FACILITATE MATTER, PRESIDENT MUBARAK THEN VICE PRESIDENT, REQUESTED HIM TO MAKE OUR RESPONSE FLEXIBLE AND IT WAS AGREED FINALLY THAT:

- A) ANY OFFICIAL VISITING THE CITY WOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT THAT HIS VISIT MEANT NO RECOGNITION OF THE ISRAELI ACT.
- B) THAT NO SUCH VISIT SHOULD EXTEND BEYOND OFFICE HOURSE. AFTER CONDUCTING THEIR BUSINESS, OFFICIALS WOULD STAY IN ANOTHER CITY.

7. THIS FORMULA WAS RELAYED TO THE ISRAELI SIDE AND WAS STRICTLY ADHERED TO. WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT VISITED ISRAEL AFTERWARDS, HIS VISITS WERE CONFINED TO HAIFA AND BERSHIBA.

VISITS WERE CONFINED TO HAIFA AND BERSHIBA.

8. THUS, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD NO REASON TO BE SURPRISED WHEN THEY WERE INFORMED OF PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S DESIRE TO AVOID THIS HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUE ON HIS COMING VISIT.

9. PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR LAST WEEK, THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO CONVEYED TO US AN ORAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER STATING THAT MR BEGIN WOULD BE COMPELLED TO REQUEST THE CANCELLATION OF THE VISIT IF IT DID NOT INCLUDE JERUSALEM. WE PREFERRED TO WITHHOLD ANY REPLY UNTIL MINISTER SHAMIR ARRIVED AS WE WERE DESIREOUS THAT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT IN A FRIENDLY MANNER.

10. WHEN MINISTER SHAMIR ARRIVED, THE PRESIDENT TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO REVERSE THE STAND PRESIDENT SADAT TOOK ON THIS ISSUE, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF ITS RELIGIOUS DIMENSION. IT WOULD BE DISSERVICE TO PEACE TO GIVE AMMUNITION TO FANATIC FUNDAMENTALISTS AND OTHER EXTREMIST GROUPS WHICH OPERATE OUTSIDE THE MAINSTREAM OF THE EGYPTIAN SOCIETY. A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO THE CITY AFTER THE ISRAELI ACT WOULD CREATE A MOST UNFAVOURABLE ATMOSPHERE AT A CRUCIAL TIME WHEN THE TRIAL OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S ASSASSIN'S IS APPROACHING ITS END. OTHER TRIALS ARE UNDER WAY, TOO. THE FORCES THAT FOMENT TENSION AND OPPOSE PEACE WOULD NO DOUBT SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTEND THAT EGYPT HAS SURRENDERED ARAB AND MUSLIM RIGHTS IN ORDER TO SECURE THE COMPLETION OF WITHDRAWAL.

11. THE PRESIDENT ADVISED THE ISRAELI CABINET TO DEMONSTRATE THE SAME FLEXIBILITY WHICH CHARACTERIZES OUR BEHAVIOUR. HE SAID THAT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND OTHER ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD NOT INFLICT ANY HARM ON EITHER PARTY. HE STRESSED THAT THE INSISTENCE ON A PROVOCATIVE MOVE WOULD HURT THE CAUSE OF BUILDING PEACE BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES, UNNECESSARILY.

12. MINISTER SHAMIR LEFT CAIRO WITH THE PROMISE OF SEEKING A COMPROMISE. HOWEVER, WE WERE SURPRISED TO RECEIVE PRESS REPORTS FROM ISRAEL STATING THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WOULD RATHER HAVE THE VISIT CANCELLED THAN TAKE PLACE WHILE OMITTING JERUSALEM.

13. WE WILL NOT BE DRAWN TO A USELESS PUBLIC EXCHANGE OF ARGUMENTS AND/OR ACCUSATIONS. BUT PRESIDENT MUBARAK WANTS PRIME MINISTER THATCHER TO KNOW THAT THIS ISRAELI ATTITUDE IS NOT SERVING THE CAUSE OF PEACE. THERE IS NO RATIONAL REASON FOR THIS ADAMANT INSISTENCE ON A MATTER THAT CAUSES MORE HARM THAN GOOD. ALTERNATIVES

INSISTENCE ON A MATTER THAT CAUSES MORE HARM THAN GOOD. ALTERNATIVES ARE MANY AND WE SHALL NOT BE FORCED TO CHANGE OUR POLICY UNDER PRESSURE. BOTH PARTIES ARE UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO FULFILL THEIR COMMITMENTS UNDER THE PEACE TREATY IN GOOD FAITH. NO PARTY SHOULD SEEK TO IMPOSE UNREASONABLE DEMANDS. EACH SIDE SHOULD CONSIDER THE SENSITIVITIES AND THE DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING THE OTHER.

14. NONE OF STANDS TO BENEFIT OF SUCH SITUATIONS. WE HAVE BEEN MOST CONCILIATORY AND ACCOMMODATING WITH ISRAEL AND WE EXPECT THEM TO ACT IN RECIPROCITY. IT IS FUTILE TO RESORT TO THE MEDIA, FOR THIS WILL NOT GENERATE ANY PRESSURE ON US. IT WOULD ONLY PRODUCE THE ILLFEELING WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY TO ELIMINATE.

15. PRESIDENT MUBARAK WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT IF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON THE JERUSALEM ISSUE, WE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO POSTPONE THE VISIT FOR A FEW MONTHS PENDING A CLARIFICATION OF THE MATTER OR A CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

ENDS.

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