

CONFIDENTIAL

25304 - 1

OO WASHINGTON
OO UKMIS NEW YORK
GRS 360
CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO 041730 NOV 81
TO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT
TELEGRAM NUMBER 268 OF 4 NOVEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, RIYADH (SECRETARY OF
STATE'S PARTY)
PRIORITY PARIS, THE HAGUE, ROME.
ROUTINE OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS, UKREP BRUSSELS, BRUSSELS,
COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, LUXEMBOURG, ATHENS, BONN.
SINAI MFO: PLO ATTITUDE

1. RAMLAWI, PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON, CALLED ON NENAD TODAY ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM QADDOUMI TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT PROBABLE BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE MFO. HE DELIVERED A NOTE URGING HMG TO RECONSIDER AND STATING THAT THE TWO PARTS OF THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS SEPARATE FROM EACH OTHER. THE NOTE ASSERTS THAT QUOTE THE REPORTED DECISION CREATES SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE ARAB NATION UNQUOTE. RAMLAWI ADDED THAT IT WAS THE PLO'S VIEW THAT THE SEPARATE ROLE OF THE EUROPEANS HAD ITS OWN VALUE WHICH WAS RESPECTED BY THE ARAB WORLD. SUCH A DECISION WOULD LEAVE THE PLO DEEPLY UNSATISFIED.
2. WE EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION WAS PROVING DIFFICULT FOR US. WE WERE FIRMLY DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ALONG VENICE LINES AND WE OURSELVES HAD STRONGLY ARGUED AGAINST ANY DECISION WHICH WOULD DAMAGE EUROPEAN CREDIBILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND PARTICULARLY ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. IF A DECISION TO PARTICIPATE WAS MADE, THE PLO WOULD DO WELL TO RECOGNISE ITS POSITIVE ASPECTS, WHICH WOULD BE CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO THE PLO LEADERSHIP IN A MESSAGE. THEY SHOULD RECOGNISE THAT EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO BUILD A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND THE PLO, MADE IT ESSENTIAL THAT US/EUROPEAN LINKS REMAINED STRONG. A POSITIVE DECISION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

35304 - 1

WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE SAME POLICY TO EMBRACE BOTH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI AND A DETERMINED SEARCH FOR JUSTICE FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

3. RAMLAWI APPEARED TO TAKE THESE POINTS AND THE TONE WAS FRIENDLY. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY QADDOUMI TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION TO LORD CARRINGTON FOR HIS SPEECH TO THE CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL ON 2 NOVEMBER. IT HAD BEEN NOTED AS A POSITIVE STATEMENT.

CARRINGTON

STANDARD

NENAD
MED
NAD
UND
EESD
ECD
WED
RID

MAED
ES & SD
ERD
ESID
CONS D
CONS EM UNIT
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE