

Subject: Middle East  
situation P+ 11

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PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 11 / 83

MESSAGE TO KING FAHD

As Your Majesty knows, King Hassan of Morocco has had to postpone the visit by the Arab League Delegation to Britain that he was to have led on 7 February. I know that Your Majesty has been making every effort to arrange a successful visit by the delegation, and I am very grateful that you have been good enough to ensure that I have been kept informed of your views. I therefore wanted to let you know that my colleagues and I stand ready to welcome the delegation as soon as new arrangements can be made.

In the meantime I am glad that we have been able to dispel certain misunderstandings. Britain has contributed as much as any Western country to the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the acceptance of the need for the PLO to be associated with negotiations for a settlement. We have not retreated an inch from that position and we remain determined to make our contribution to progress towards a just and lasting settlement through negotiation.

We shall do all that is in our power to ensure that the opportunity presented by the decisions of the Fez Summit and President Reagan's proposals is not missed. In particular, I have just sent a personal message to President Reagan stressing the need for early, positive steps to restore confidence in the peace process.

I am sure that Your Majesty will agree that our two countries should co-operate closely to achieve the aims which we hold in common. We both have a fundamental interest in making progress towards peace and justice in the Middle East and in finding solutions to the problems facing the world economy and the security of the free world. The Soviet Union will not be slow to exploit any divisions in our ranks.

For our part, Your Majesty, we shall work for the maximum co-operation and friendship with your country. It is in that spirit that I have sought to let you have my views on the current problems which face us.

8.2.83