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Subject: EGYPT: Anglo/Egyptian
Relations. Nov. 80



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T84/83

9 June, 1983

Dear President Tubbade,

Thank you for your letter which I received before I set out for the Williamsburg Economic Summit. I was grateful for your kind remarks about the Leeds Castle Conference. I know that Dr. Saad Abdel Fattah Khalil made a valuable contribution to its success.

I share your view of the interdependence of the world economy and agree that all countries are affected by the world recession. The Williamsburg Summit was not of course intended to design a plan for global recovery. But it did consider and agree upon the overall framework within which, I believe, the emerging recovery in the industrialised nations can be sustained and spread to other parts of the world. Its principal message was one of confidence in the prospects for such recovery. It is important for all countries, developing and developed alike, that recovery should be sound and that its benefits should be shared widely. The renewed Williamsburg commitment to the open trading system is particularly important in this respect.

I was pleased to note, Mr. President, that you yourself will address the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations on Trade and Development. Like other nations represented at Williamsburg, Britain shares the commitment of the developing

/countries

countries to approach the Belgrade discussions in a spirit of understanding and co-operation. Our aim will be to agree upon practical action wherever possible.

I share your concern at the rising tension in the Middle East. We welcomed the Israel/Lebanon agreement as a substantial step towards securing peace in Lebanon. It is now vital that those concerned take the next step, that of withdrawing all foreign forces from the country as soon as possible, to enable the Lebanese Government to re-establish its authority throughout its territory. We have urged the Syrian Government to seize this opportunity to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Southern Lebanon by agreeing to withdraw their own forces, despite any reservations they may have about the agreement. The present dangerous situation must not be allowed to persist.

The lack of progress in efforts to settle the wider Arab/Israeli conflict is also disturbing. We have called for a major effort to revive President Reagan's initiative, which remains the best starting point for negotiations. Meanwhile, the continuing programme of Israeli settlements can only hinder further efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement of the kind envisaged since Resolution 242. We and our European partners are determined to use our influence to encourage a moderate and constructive approach from all sides to this most complex and urgent problem. I know that you are doing the same. But progress can only be achieved if those most directly concerned show the political will to settle their differences by negotiation. Israel's rejection of the Reagan plan, and the PLO's decision to frustrate King Hussein's efforts to come to the negotiating table, are both serious setbacks which we must all work to overcome.

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I, too, very much hope that we can keep in touch on these important matters.

Living good with

Yours sincerely

Nayana Shetty

His Excellency President Muhammad Hosni Said Mubarak.