

MIDDLE EAST

PS

PS/MR RENTON

PS/PUS

~~MR DEREK THOMAS~~ Mr RANTON

MR FERGUSSON

SIR D. MILES.

HD/NENAD

HD/MED

NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE DIO

IMMEDIATE

PUSD (2)

NEWS DEPT

RESIDENT CLERK

1.10.85

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TEL AVIV

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

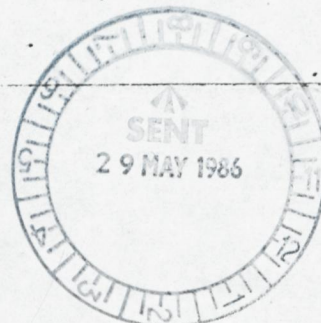
TELNO 237

OF 281230Z MAY 86

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

INFO PRIORITY AMMAN

INFO ROUTINE CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM, TUNIS, RIYADH



(WASHINGTON FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY)

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT: PALESTINIAN REACTIONS

1. THE EGYPTIAN CHARGE CALLED ON 28 MAY AND I BRIEFED HIM ON THE LINES OF MRS THATCHER'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM (27 MAY).
2. I ASKED BASSHOUNY WHAT REACTIONS HE HAD HAD FROM THE ARAB SIDE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PALESTINIANS IN JERUSALEM ON MAY 26: I HAD SEEN PRESS REPORTS OF CRITICAL PLO COMMENTS OUT OF TUNIS. BASSHOUNY SAID THE PALESTINIAN GUESTS HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM INDIVIDUALLY AFTER THE MEETING AND THE CONSENSUS WAS THIS WAS THE BEST MEETING WITH A VISITING POLITICIAN SINCE 1967. BOTH SHAWWA AND FREIJ HAD SAID THE EVENING HAD BEEN EXCELLENT, BUT EQUALLY THE PRO-PLO PEOPLE LIKE SIMLORA AND ABU RAHMA HAD BEEN VERY POSITIVE INDEED.
3. I REPORT THESE EGYPTIAN COMMENTS AS A CROSS-CHECK ON WHAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE SAYING TO US, WHICH HMCG IS REPORTING SEPARATELY.

SQUIRE