



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 December 1981

Dear John,

*I think it is
too late to send
this now*

You will be aware that Sir J Craig has recommended from Jedda that the Prime Minister should send a message to Crown Prince Fahd in the wake of the Fez Summit. I enclose copies of Jedda telegram number 790 containing this recommendation and subsequent telegrams numbers 793 and 795 recording a discussion with the Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs and containing Sir J Craig's further suggestion of a visit to Saudi Arabia by Mr Hurd.

Lord Carrington believes that we should do what we can to encourage the Saudis and other moderate Arabs to continue their efforts to gain wider acceptance of Fahd's principles, but that we should also be cautious about arousing exaggerated Saudi or other Arab expectations from us. He therefore believes that a visit by Mr Hurd would not be appropriate at this stage, since it would suggest to the Arabs that we are prepared to do more to help them than we in fact can. He does, however, recommend that the Prime Minister should send an encouraging message to Crown Prince Fahd, as she has already done to King Hussein. I enclose a draft message which the Prime Minister could send through Sir J Craig.

Louis Cook.

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

John Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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23 DEC 1981

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO CROWN PRINCE FAHD

Much has happened since we saw each other in London and discussed the principles you have put forward for a Middle East peace settlement. We share with you the disappointment you must feel that it was not possible to move further forward at the Arab League Summit; but I was glad to hear from King Hussein that those who supported your ideas at Fez are determined to continue to work for a positive and constructive approach to the problems of the Middle East. You may be sure that you will have our support in future efforts in this direction. For our part, we - the United Kingdom and our European partners - remain fully committed to pursuing the policy of the Ten members of the European Community which was set out in the Venice Declaration.

The extreme difficulty of the task has been underlined by Israel's totally unacceptable action in extending Israeli law to the Syrian territory which they occupy on the Golan. You will have seen that the European Ten have strongly deplored this move, which we regard as invalid, and we have of course joined in the Security Council's call for Israel to rescind its law. I can well understand the anger which has been aroused in the Arab world. This latest complication, however, does not change our view that the way towards peace lies in the mutual recognition of rights between the parties concerned. We shall go on doing what we

/can

can to make that possible and I hope very much that our two Governments will continue to work closely together. I much value the exchanges between our Governments on these vital issues and I hope that we shall remain closely in touch as the situation develops. I am sure that you will let James Craig know if you feel that another round of talks at the political level would be useful.



HU
Saudi Arabia

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 December 1981

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 23 December to John Coles, in which you reported Lord Carrington's recommendation that the Prime Minister should send an encouraging message to Crown Prince Fahd in the wake of the Fez Summit.

The Prime Minister feels that some time has now elapsed since the Fez Summit, and that is it rather late in the day to send a message of this kind; but she has agreed with some reluctance that the message should go as drafted. I should therefore be grateful if you could make arrangements for the message to be delivered by Sir James Craig.

W. F. S. RICKETT

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

The FCO hope you will be willing to reconsider this, because the Foreign Secretary sees two reasons for sending a message to Crown Prince Fahd:

- (a) as a minimum response to the Saudi's plea for a high level gesture of European support for the eight-point plan, first put to our Ambassador by Deputy Foreign Minister Mansouri early this month; and
- (b) to enable our Ambassador to have an audience of Crown Prince Fahd to discover his attitudes. Without a message from you to deliver, Sir J. Craig feels unable to approach Prince Fahd. And he does not consider it much use asking Prince Saud or his officials since they are known to be unenthusiastic about the eight-point plan.

In the light of this are you willing to send the message to Fahd, despite the fact that some time has elapsed since the Fez Summit?

WKS

Redundant - yes
no

24 December 1981



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Do you agree to send this
message to Field?

2. The last sentence of par-1
of the message may strike you as odd
in the light of Cheyson's remarks.
but it is language recently spread
by the 10 Political Directors and
personally endorsed by Cheyson.

A.S.C. ²³/₁₂