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10 DOWNING STREET

BF
on MCG
with Egypt
Ambassador
Aug 80

From the Private Secretary

17 December 1981

Call on the Prime Minister by the Egyptian Ambassador

Would you please refer to Francis Richards' letter of 16 December and your own of 17 December.

ref on
Egypt Aug 80
Meeting with
Egyptian Ambassador
Aug 1980

Mr. Abou Seeda paid a 10-minute call on the Prime Minister today. His primary purpose was to convey a letter to the Prime Minister from President Mubarak. A copy is enclosed with this letter.

The Prime Minister read the letter and commented that it was our firm hope that withdrawal from Sinai would take place on schedule and according to plan. The Ambassador said that Egypt was hoping for the best. All calculations suggested that the Israelis ought to complete the withdrawal process and Egypt was sure that they would indeed withdraw. The Israeli Government could, however, be expected to make difficulties, for which Egypt would be ready.

The Ambassador congratulated the Prime Minister on the speech she had made to the Board of Deputies of British Jews on the recent Israeli move on the Golan. HMG's attitude was very solid and encouraging. The Israelis could be counted upon to raise new issues to complicate the peace process, for example in Southern Lebanon their objective would be to distract attention from the Palestinian issue. The autonomy negotiations presented great difficulty but Egypt had to go on with them. There was no other way to promote peace. Egypt hoped that after the completion of Sinai withdrawal in April 1982, friendly Governments, including the United Kingdom, would co-ordinate action with the Americans to stimulate new movement towards peace. Egypt wanted a comprehensive peace, not just a settlement in Sinai.

The Prime Minister said she concluded from this that Egypt's approach was not limited to the ideas contained in the Camp David Agreement (the Ambassador confirmed that that was so). She added that it was important that Egypt's relations with other Arabs should improve.

/ The Prime

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The Prime Minister then said that she hoped President Mubarak would be able to visit London soon. Mr. Abou Seeda said that the President was hoping to visit the United States in February. The Prime Minister said he would be very welcome to visit London either on his way to or back from the United States, or at any other time. The Ambassador said that he would convey this invitation with pleasure to President Mubarak.

I should be grateful if you could let me have in due course a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to President Mubarak's letter.

A. J. COLES

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