



A.P.C. 17

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

Thursday January 6.

Dear Prime Minister,

This is a line
to thank you for your generosity
in finding time for me to come to
Chequers on Tuesday. I much enjoyed
our talk, and am now wiser as to
your own views.

Sadly the PLO, despite their
military defeat, are well entrenched
at the heart of Middle East politics,
and likely to remain so, for the reasons
which we discussed. This means, again
unfortunately, that however terrible the

most of our policies in the area, they
are at risk unless we can handle
the PLO point adequately. It suits the
Israeli to claim that the PLO are simply
a terrorist organisation. ~~But~~ But it does
seem crucial that our own policy should
be based on our own up to date assessment,
of that confused and unsatisfactory organisation.

I entirely agree that it is not
enough to coast along from day to day,
and that we need as clear an idea as
possible of the outcome which is best
suit our interests. Although 1983 won't
be a year in which (I imagine) you
will have much time for long term analysis,
it would be splendid if before too long you
could hold the longer meeting on the
long term which you foreshadowed.

With many thanks for your
kindness and hospitality.

Yours
Douglas