

Telegram from Geoffrey George Arthur to UK missions regarding the WEU meeting on the Middle East (17 February 1969)

Caption: On 17 February 1969, Geoffrey George Arthur, British Ambassador to Kuwait, sends a telegram to United Kingdom main diplomatic missions in the Middle East, in Western Europe and in the United States regarding the anxiety caused in the Arab world by the motives of the recent Western European Union meeting on the Middle East held in London on 14 February. The British authorities reassure the United Arab Republic Ambassador that there was nothing special about the meeting except for the French refusal to attend it.

Source: The National Archives of the UK (TNA). Foreign Office, Eastern Department and successors: Registered Files (E and NE Series). MIDDLE EAST. Discussions. Western European Union (WEU) ministerial meeting. 01/01/1969-31/12/1969, FCO 17/727 (Former Reference Dep: NE 2/29).

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Last updated: 13/10/2016

Registry No.
DEPARTMENT NE G. G. ARTHUR

* Date and time (G.M.T.) telegram should reach addressee(s)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PRIORITY MARKINGS
Top Secret Secret Confidential Restricted <u>Unclassified</u>	Flash Immediate Priority Routine

(Date) 17.2.69

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telegram No. (date) 17.2.69 February

And to

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CAIRO

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(Date) 17.2.69

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(Saving to some) : W.E.U. meeting on the Middle East.

The U.A.R. Ambassador told Arthur today that this meeting had caused the Arabs some anxiety.

They wondered what motives and objectives were.

2. Arthur said that we frequently consulted our W.E.U. allies on matters of common interest.

There was nothing special about the meeting on 14 February except that the French had refused to attend it. Since this refusal was obviously related to their European, and not to their Middle Eastern policy, there was no need for the Arabs to worry. H.M.G. were not trying to align the Europeans against the French over the Middle East.

/3.

3. The Ambassador hoped that the Europeans had not tried to put the responsibility for the present situation on to the Arabs on the grounds that they had refused direct negotiations with Israel. Arthur replied that the Europeans supported action in the United Nations on the basis of Security Council Resolution No. 242(67).

He had not noticed any Zionists around.

4. The Ambassador said that his Government were in touch with other W.E.U. governments: he had spoken to their representatives in London before the meeting.

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