

PARLEMENT
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- 6 SEP 1982
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Hassan Bil Talal
Prince Héritière
de Jordan.

Daniel Libanon

THE ROYAL PALACE
AMMAN JORDAN

21 August, 1982

Dear Mr. Dankert,

I should like to take this opportunity to extend my belated best wishes on your appointment as President of the European Parliament and to share with you some of my views and concerns at this critical time.

The tragic events in the Lebanon, which started as an operation to neutralize 25 kilometres of Southern Lebanon, must have gone far beyond the expectations of even the most astute observers of the area. Prime Minister Begin's statement of 21 June that "Israel does not covet one single inch of Lebanese soil" is reminiscent of that of his predecessor, Levi Eshkol, who stated, on the eve of the June 1967 war, that "Israel has no intention of annexing even one foot of Arab territory", following which Israel has managed to annex, without much international opposition, Arab Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, as well as to expropriate a large portion of the Arab West Bank territories and divert their resources.

We have been politically diverted by events in the Lebanon from the key issue of the future of the Arab occupied territories in which Israel claims she is conceding "sui generis" autonomy. Furthermore, U.S. credibility in exercising a cohesive peace policy has been seriously affected.

As summed up by William Raspberry in the Washington Post: "The point is that we had better recognize - as the rest of the world already does - that we cannot supply Israel's war machine or underwrite its bellicose policies without buying into its bellicosity."

His Excellency Mr. Piet Dankert

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If our search is for justice for people and security for states, I have stated clearly that the right of all states to live free from armed threat is a foregone conclusion in the event of peace. War-clouds are still looming in the other major hot spots of the Gulf, and I wonder if we cannot pursue stability on the basis that people matter? Alternatively, do we continue to react to crises? In transcending this tragic phase we must return to essentials, in particular to the ultimate self-determination for the Palestinian people on their soil.

I recently expressed the above concerns in two articles that appeared in the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune which I enclose for your information.

Yours very sincerely,

Shimon Peres

His Excellency Mr. Piet Dankert
President of the European Parliament
Luxembourg

*The President
of the European Parliament*

Strasbourg, 13 OCT. 1982

*Jordan +
Lebanon*

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan
bin Talal of Jordan
The Royal Palace
AMMAN

Jordan

Sir,

I am sorry that I was unable to reply earlier to your letter of 21st August, 1982, in which you draw my attention to the recent, tragic events in the Lebanon.

I share your belief that the so-called "Palestinian question" remains the crux of this crisis and that only when this problem has been solved can the way be paved towards peace and co-operation in the Middle East. I believe that a homeland should be provided for the four million Palestinians as soon as possible, and in a way which would guarantee peace and security for all the Middle Eastern states. It seems to me that the Kingdom of Jordan will have to play a prominent role in the attainment of such an objective.

The European Parliament has expressed its profound concern on a number of occasions over destabilising developments in the Middle East, and was particularly shocked and horrified by recent events in the Lebanon. It was therefore with great interest that I read the two articles enclosed with your letter.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,



P. DANKERT