

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

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Your Excellency,

The painful events and the increasing tension which are prevailing in the Gulf region and their exceptionally grave implications on the regional and international levels are for us a source of preoccupation and of deep concern.

The recent developments to which we pay a particular attention have led us to make continuous efforts in order to defuse the crisis and contain its impact with the aim to preserve peace and security in the world and consolidate international detente.

Taking into account all these considerations I felt I had to have consultations with Your Excellency on the appropriate means to initiate urgent actions to that end.

Therefore I have appointed Mr. Habib BEN YAHIA, Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs as a Special Envoy to Your Excellency to reiterate our deep esteem and highest consideration. Mr. BEN YAHIA will also convey to Your Excellency our assessment of this grave crisis and will be very interested to know your views over the measures that could be taken for a peaceful and urgent settlement of this conflict.

Indeed we have to eliminate all risks of a military confrontation which would have disastrous effects on the Gulf region and would seriously threaten peace and security in the world.

In this respect I should like to submit to your Excellency some ideas and suggestions as our contribution to the common thinking effort to find a way out from this hard situation.

I would like to express the hope that Your Excellency will favorably consider these proposals and give them your precious support.

With my highest consideration.

ZINE EL ABIDINE BEN ALI

President of the Tunisian Republic

Her Excellency
Mrs. Margaret THATCHER
Prime Minister of the United-Kingdom

**Tunisian proposals for a settlement
to the Gulf crisis.**

In conformity with the international legality and without siding with any party to the conflict,

Anxious to avoid further divisions within Arab ranks and to preserve peace and security in the region,

Convinced that it is necessary to reach a peaceful solution to this issue,

Tunisia is proposing a number of preliminary ideas as a starting point for negotiations and as a step towards settling the dispute in such a way that the rights of the conflicting parties are preserved and peace and security and stability are insured in the whole Gulf region.

While filing this draft, Tunisia considers that this is a sound basis which could be further enriched and a starting point which could be further developed by additional proposals or necessary amendments, in order to conceive a final peace plan to be submitted to the Security Council for consideration and approval.

1- The announcement by Irak that it will liberate western citizens detained on its soil and that it is determined to withdraw from Kuwait as provided by this plan, will be timed with the announcement, before the Security Council, by those countries which have sent their military forces to the Middle-East, of their pledge not to launch any attack against Irak.

2- Then the withdrawal of Iraki forces from Kuwait will start with their replacement by Arab forces to be agreed upon and placed under the Security Council responsibility

3- The Security Council will decide to hold the embargo measures against Irak and to cancel them at the end of withdrawal operations.

4- Free legislative elections will be held in Kuwait under the sponsorship of the United Nations and the supervision of Arab Forces with the aim of bringing about a Representative Assembly with full powers.

5- The Representative Assembly will decide :

- whether to accept or oppose union with Irak.
- on the Ruling Family status.

6- The Representative Assembly will appoint a Government that will define border lines and will compensate Irak for losses incurred by oil drillings in a disputed oil field and will cancel Iraki debts due to Kuwait.

7- The Arab States as a whole commit themselves to ensure safety and security to the Gulf States .

8- Withdrawal of the foreign military forces from the region.