

STATE OF PALESTINE
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

President's Office



دولة فلسطين
منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية
مكتب الرئيس

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..... : الرقم

..... : التاريخ

Dear Mr. Felber

Greetings,

With great appreciation, I received your letter of thanks for our efforts in securing the release of the two Swiss nationals Mr. Emanuel Christen and Elio Erriquez, who were taken hostage in South Lebanon and who were held, as I informed you previously, by the Abu Nidal group .

As you know, we in the Palestine Liberation Organization have given this group a meaningful lesson when I ordered our forces to round them up. I did not issue this orders, however, until we were sure that the two gentlemen were released and arrived safely in their country. I had informed your Ambassador in Tunis Mr. Luciano Mordasini, whom I met and who handed me your letter, that what prevented me from striking at this group was that these two gentlemen were held by them .

Now that they have been released kindly convey to them my warmest congratulations and best wishes of good health and happiness and kindly convey to them our thanks for the efforts they have undertaken, within the International Red Cross, to provide necessary human services to



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our people and the brotherly lebanese people as well as for the important human and meaningful work they do .

Our position in this regard is a principled one: we reject to use for whatever reason, human beings as hostages. We know the meaning of being held hostage and the sufferings and pains that it causes both on the personal and on the public levels. Our people continuously suffer from the Israeli crimes and are paying high price for the continued Israeli occupation of their Land, and for the stumbling process of peace based on justice. Therefore we have intervned repeatedly on behalf of all persons who were taken hostage irrespective of nationality, creed colour of sex. We will continue to hold this position which we are now in fact adopting in the Gulf crisis .

Our Palestinian people, who are confronting the Israeli occupation, authority, repression oppression and crimes. solicit the support of Switzerland on all levels. We are confident that Switzerland which is known for its love of justice, solidarity and cooperation, will stand on the side of our people's right to self - determination and to achieve their freedom and independence .

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الرقم :

التاريخ :

Please accept my thanks and wishes of good health and happiness and for the Swiss people continuous progress and prosperity .

Tunis: 7 October 1990

Yasser Arafat
President of the State of Palestine
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the
Palestine Liberation Organization

To:
H.E. Mr. Rene' Felber
Head of the Department
of Foreign Affairs
Berne - Switzerland