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Note about a Talk at the Occasion of the Inaugural Visit by the Ambassador of the PLO Dr. Isam Kamel Salem, with the Head of the Department Near and Middle East of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Comrade Wolfgang Schüßler, on 11 May 1982

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Summary:

The conversation deals with permanent PLO representation in the GDR. The PLO has had official representation since 1978, with the opening of a PLO embassy in Berlin. The PLO ambassador points out that this status necessarily leads to more expenses. He applies for more GDR funding.

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V e r m e r k


Über ein Gespräch anlässlich des Antrittsbesuches des Botschafters der PLO, Dr. Isam Kamel Salem, beim Leiter der Abteilung Naher und Mittlerer Osten des MfAA, Genossen Wolfgang Schüßler, am 11.5.1982

Genosse Schüßler beglückwünschte Dr. Kamel zur Akkreditierung als erster Außerordentlicher und Bevollmächtigter Botschafter der PLO in der DDR und wünschte ihm Erfolg in seiner Tätigkeit.

Nach einem Meinungsaustausch zu aktuellen politischen Entwicklungen in der Region benutzte Dr. Kamel die Gelegenheit, darauf hinzuweisen, daß die Tätigkeit und die Verpflichtungen der nun zur Botschaft gewordenen PLO-Vertretung seit 1978 immer vielfältiger geworden sind. Angesichts dieser Tatsache bereite die Wahrnehmung aller Aufgaben der Botschaft mit den Mitteln des seit 1978 unveränderten Budgets der Vertretung zunehmend Schwierigkeiten. Unter Bezugnahme auf die Empfehlung des Genossen Oskar Fischer, alle konkreten Fragen und Probleme freimütig mit Genossen Schüßler zu beraten, beantragte Dr. Kamel, die Möglichkeiten einer Erhöhung des Budgets der PLO-Botschaft seitens der DDR zu prüfen.

Genosse Schüßler sagte die Weiterleitung des Anliegens unter Hinweis auf die auch Dr. Kamel bekannte gegenwärtig angespannte Situation zu.


Mackrodt

13.5.
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[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the GDR]

Department Near and Middle East

Berlin, 13 May 1982

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Comrade Schüßler congratulated Dr. Kamel for his accreditation as the first Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the PLO in the GDR and wished him success in his work.

After an exchange of opinions about current political developments in the region, Dr. Kamel used the opportunity to note that the activities and obligations of the PLO representation, now turned into an embassy, have become ever more diverse since 1978. In light of these facts, the operation of all these embassy tasks becomes increasingly difficult with the funds of the [PLO] representation's budget at a level unchanged from 1978. Referring to the recommendation by Comrade Oskar Fischer [\[1\]](#) to discuss all concrete questions and issues frankly with Comrade Schüßler, Dr. Kamel requested a review of possibilities for an increase by the GDR of the budget of the PLO Embassy.

Comrade Schüßler promised to forward this request under consideration of the currently tense situation also known to Dr. Kamel.

[handwritten signature]

Mackrodt

[\[1\]](#) Oskar Fischer (1923-2020), GDR Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1975 to 1990.