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*Info to DSR Mobley
Earl*

FM AMMAN 311625Z MAR 81
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 116 OF 31 MAR
AND T^O IMMEDIATE MODUK (FOR PS/HDS)
INFO PRIORITY BAGHDAD
INFO SAVING TO BONN

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YOUR TELS NOS 112 AND 113: TORNADO.

1. I DELIVERED THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO KING HUSSEIN TODAY SHORTLY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF TWO DAYS OF PRESENTATIONS ON TORNADO BY A BRITISH AEROSPACE TEAM (ON WHICH MY AIR ATTACH IS TELEGRAPHING A SEPARATE DETAILED REPORT). THE KING HAD IN FACT ASKED ME TWICE IN THE LAST 24 HOURS WHEN HE COULD EXPECT A RESPONSE TO HIS LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF 18 FEBRUARY: THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY COULD NOT THEREFORE HAVE BEEN MORE TIMELY. THE KING READ IT CAREFULLY, WAS EVIDENTLY WELL PLEASED WITH ITS CONTENTS AND SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THE MATTER FURTHER WITH MRS THATCHER AT THEIR MEETING IN LONDON ON 8 APRIL.

2. THE KING SAID HE HAD BEEN QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENTATION HE HAD ATTENDED ON 30 MARCH BUT THAT HE HAD NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEBRIEF HIS AIR FORCE ADVISERS ON THE MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE EARLIER TODAY. HE SAID IT WAS, HOWEVER, THE POLITICAL ASPECTS WHICH WORRIED HIM MOST AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER WE WOULD SUCCEED IN OVERCOMING THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S RESERVATIONS. WHEN I REFERRED TO THE DIFFICULTY WE WERE HAVING IN CONVINCING THE GERMANS THAT THE SALE OF TORNADO TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES WAS A SERIOUS PROSPECT (BONN TELNO 194 OF 23 MARCH REFERS) THE KING SAID HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE PRIME MINISTER BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO HERR SCHMIDT OR AT A SUITABLY HIGH LEVEL WITHIN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IF THIS WOULD HELP. HE WOULD ALSO CONSIDER ASKING THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF TO SPEAK TO THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HERE.

3. THE KING WENT ON TO SAY THAT GERMAN RELUCTANCE TO SELL LEOPARD II TO SAUDI ARABIA AND ALSO THEIR REFUSAL TO SUPPLY HELICOPTERS TO IRAQ FOR WHICH THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY ENTERED INTO CONTRACTS HAD MADE A PARTICULARLY BAD IMPRESSION ON THE IRAQIS. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE COMMUNICATING THE GIST OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO SADDAM HUSSAIN WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO AND HE MADE IT CLEAR HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO CARRYING THE IRAQIS WITH HIM FROM THE OUTSET ON TORNADO. YOU WILL SEE FROM MY AIR ATTACHE'S TELEGRAM ON THE TORNADO PRESENTATIONS THAT, WHILE THE JORDANIANS SEEM TO BE FOCUSING MAINLY ON THE PROPOSED NEW AIR SUPERIORITY AIRCRAFT DERIVED FROM TORNADO WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO MEET ARAB REQUIREMENTS, THE IRAQIS SEEM TO BE SHOWING GREATER INTEREST IN THE IDS VARIANT OF TORNADO.

4. THE MOD SALES/BAE TEAM WILL OF COURSE BE REPORTING MORE FULLY ON THEIR RETURN. I HAVE, HOWEVER, SEEN THE KING ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS DURING THE LAST 48 HOURS AND BELIEVE HIS INTEREST HAS BEEN WELL AND TRULY AROUSED. ABOVE ALL, I THINK HE HAS GRASPED

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THE ADVANTAGES TO THE ARABS OF ENTERING INTO ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FAMILY OF AIRCRAFT WHICH ALREADY EXISTS RATHER THAN THE MIRAGE 4000 WHICH IS STILL ONLY IN PROTOTYPE FORM. BUT THE FRENCH HAVE A LONG LEAD AND WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF LEEWAY TO MAKE UP, PARTICULARLY ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS. THE FACT THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL NOW BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS VISIT TO THE UK BY DR. TOUQAN, HIS SCIENTIFIC ADVISER, IS A MOST ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT AND BAE AND MOD SALES ARE ALREADY PLANNING AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAMME FOR HIM.

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