

CONFIDENTIAL

FM AMMAN 301630Z SEP 80

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 370 OF 30 SEP 80

INFO PRIORITY TO ABU DAHBI ALGIERS ANKARA BAGHDAD BAHRAIN
DAMASCUS DOHA DUBAI JEDDA KUWAIT MUSCAT
TEL AVIV UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

*Read 2 full***JORDAN AND THE IRAN/IRAQ CONFLICT**

1. KING HUSSEIN SENT CROWN PRINCE HASSAN TO BAGHDAD ON 29 SEPTEMBER WITH A MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT SADDAM EXPRESSING JORDAN'S SUPPORT FOR IRAQ. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN TODAY'S JORDANIAN PRESS THE MESSAGE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE RECOVERY OF ALL LANDS BELONGING TO IRAQ AND OF IRAQ'S RIGHTS IN THE SHATT AL ARAB AND ALSO TO THE RESTORATION OF THE 3 ARAB ISLANDS IN THE GULF SEIZED BY IRAN AND TO THE NEED FOR AN END TO THREATS OF DOMINATION BY IRAN OVER OTHER ARAB GULF COUNTRIES. THE MESSAGE ALSO CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ARAB/IRANIAN RELATIONS ON A NEW AND SOUNDER FOOTING SO THAT THE GULF CEASED TO BE AN AREA OF TENSION AND RIVALRY.
2. THE JORDANIAN NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON 29 SEPTEMBER, AFTER HEARING A STATEMENT BY THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER, ALSO DECLARED ITS FULL SUPPORT FOR IRAQ IN ITS BATTLE TO "LIBERATE USURPED ARAB LANDS" AND APPEALED TO OTHER ARAB STATES TO RALLY BEHIND IRAQ REGARDLESS OF THEIR DIFFERENCES. THE COUNCIL CALLED ON ISLAMIC COUNTRIES TO "AVERT FURTHER BLOODSHED AMONG MUSLEM BROTHERS AND PUT AN END TO THE WAR" AND CALLED ON ARAB STATES TO REJECT ANY INTERVENTION IN THE GULF, ESPECIALLY ON THE PART OF THE BIG POWERS.
3. KING HUSSEIN'S RECEPTION OF THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN AMMAN YESTERDAY IS ALSO WIDELY REPORTED IN TODAY'S PRESS. ADNAN ABU ODEH, THE JORDANIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION (HE IS ALSO ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHILE THE JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS IN NEW YORK) WHOM I SAY THIS MORNING TOLD ME THAT THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NOT BROUGHT ANY SPECIAL MESSAGE TO JORDAN AND THAT HE HAD MERELY BEEN TRANSITING AMMAN ON HIS WAY TO NEW YORK.
4. ABU ODEH WAS STILL EXPECTING THE PAKISTANI PRESIDENT TO COME THROUGH AMMAN LATER TODAY ON HIS WAY FROM BAGHDAD TO NEW YORK AS HIS AIRCRAFT IS APPARENTLY STILL HERE (ALTHOUGH THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR DOES NOT THINK HE WILL DO SO; SEE MY TELNO 366, NOT TO ALL). ABU ODEH SAID THAT THE JORDANIANS KNEW OF NO OTHER PEACE INITIATIVES AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS THAT KUWAIT AND ALGERIA MIGHT BE TRYING TO MOUNT SOME FORM OF MEDIATION. WHILE WELL AWARE THAT IRAN'S MILITARY

CAPABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE AIR AND AT SEA, WAS BY NO MEANS EXHAUSTED, ABU ODEH WAS CLEARLY HOPING FOR AN EARLY END TO THE FIGHTING AND OPINED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ALL OF US IF IRAQ CAME OUT ON TOP.

5. WE STILL HAVE LITTLE OR NO EVIDENCE OF DIRECT JORDANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ AND BOTH KING HUSSEIN IN SPEAKING TO ME AND THE JORDANIAN COMMANDER IN CHIEF IN DISCUSSION WITH MY DEFENCE ATTACHE TODAY (REPORTED SEPARATELY TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, COPY TO FCO) HAVE CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ANY SUCH HELP HAD BEEN REQUESTED. WE KNOW THAT TWO IRAQI MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WERE IN JORDAN FOR A WHILE AND THAT SOME IRAQI CIVIL AIRCRAFT ARE ALSO ON JORDANIAN AIRFIELDS (REPORTED BY MY AIR ATTACHE TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE TODAY). REPORTS BY TRAVELLERS OF JORDANIAN MILITARY VEHICLES HEADING TOWARDS IRAQ APPEAR TO BE WITHOUT FOUNDATION. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS OF JORDANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ SEEM (ACCORDING TO MY US COLLEAGUE: PLEASE PROTECT) TO FORM PART OF A WAR OF NERVES BEING CONDUCTED BY THE ISRAELIS AGAINST JORDAN AND US/JORDANIAN RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR.

6. THE JORDANIANS ARE, HOWEVER, HELPING THE IRAQIS IN OTHER WAYS. FOR EXAMPLE IRAQI CARGOES (CIVIL, AS FAR AS WE KNOW) ARE BEING GIVEN PRIORITY AT AQABA WITH THE RESULT THAT AQABA PORT IS NOW SERIOUSLY CONGESTED AND THE JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES ARE HAVING PROBLEMS IN FINDING SUFFICIENT LORRIES TO CARRY FREIGHT TO IRAQ (SEE OUR TELNO CRED A 114 OF 30 SEPTEMBER TO DOT).

7. THE JORDANIANS REMAIN VERY PREOCCUPIED OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE IRANIANS MAY BE RECEIVING MILITARY SPARES THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES, A QUESTION KING HUSSEIN RAISED WITH ME ON 28 SEPTEMBER (SEE PARAS 3 AND 8 OF MY TELNO 363). MY US COLLEAGUE TOLD ME TODAY THAT KING HUSSEIN HAD TELEPHONED HIM AT MIGNIGHT ON 28 SEPTEMBER IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE HAD SEEN THE PAKISTANI PRESIDENT: PRESIDENT ZIA HAD APPARENTLY TOLD THE KING THAT THE IRANIANS HAD ASSURED HIM THEY WERE RECEIVING ALL THE MILITARY SPARES THEY NEEDED. THE US AMBASSADOR WAS ABLE TO GIVE THE KING A FIRM ASSURANCE THE FOLLOWING MORNING, ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, THAT THE US WAS NOT SENDING ANY MILITARY SPARES TO IRAN AND WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR THIRD COUNTRIES TO DO SO IF THEY WERE CONSULTED.

URWICK

IRAQ/IRAN STANDARD

MEMD	MAED
NENAD	TRED ES & SD
NAD	EED
UND	ECON D
EESD	CONS D
ECD	CONS EM UNIT
WED	CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTN.

IRAQ/IRAN

[NOT ADVANCED]