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ROUTINE BAGHDAD BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS JEDDA TEL AVIV
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EC POSTS

INFO SAVING OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS

FRENCH POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. JORDANIAN CONCERN OVER FRENCH STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST IS SHOWING NO SIGN OF ABATING. THE ANXIETIES EXPRESSED BY THE JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO ME (MY TELNO 485) AND SUBSEQUENTLY (AT MY SUGGESTION) TO THE FRENCH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, AND THE ANGRY REMARKS MADE TO ME BY KING HUSSEIN (MY TELNO 486, PARA 2) HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY A FULL CABINET MEETING ON 13 DECEMBER CHAIRED, EXCEPTIONALLY, BY KING HUSSEIN HIMSELF TO DISCUSS FRANCE'S MIDDLE EAST POLICIES.

2. A COMMUNIQUE (FULL TEXT BY BAG TO FCO AND PARIS ONLY) ISSUED AFTER THIS MEETING, WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN WIDESPREAD COVERAGE ON THE JORDANIAN MEDIA, STATES THAT KING HUSSEIN DREW ATTENTION TO THE POSITIVE MIDDLE EAST POLICIES PURSUED BY

COVERAGE ON THE JORDANIAN MEDIA, STATES THAT KING HUSSEIN DREW ATTENTION TO THE POSITIVE MIDDLE EAST POLICIES PURSUED BY PRESIDENTS DE GAULLE, POMPIDOU AND GISCARD AND CONTRASTED THESE WITH THE NEGATIVE IMPRESSION CREATED BY STATEMENTS MADE BY "SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIALS" DURING AND AFTER MONSIEUR CHEYSSON'S RECENT VISIT TO ISRAEL. THESE WERE TO BE REGARDED AS A SERIOUS INDICATION OF THE GENERAL POLITICAL LINE BEING FOLLOWED BY THE FRENCH SOLIALIST GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE MIDDLE EAST. IT WAS NOW CLEAR FROM VARIOUS POLITICAL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THIS NEW FRENCH LINE CONSTITUTED A DANGEROUS REVERSAL IN FRENCH ATTITUDES BECAUSE IT UNDERMINED THE MAIN FOUNDATIONS OF EUROPEAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE FRENCH POSITION WAS A DEVIATION BOTH FROM THE VENICE DECLARATION AND FROM THE PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD DICTATE A DURABLE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING THE INADMISSIBILITY OF THE ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE AND THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

3. THE COMMUNIQUE GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT VIEWS RECENT FRENCH OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED MIDDLE EAST POSITION AND AS AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY ALL HOPES PINNED BY THE ARABS ON THE EUROPEANS IN GENERAL AND THE FRENCH IN PARTICULAR. FRENCH STATEMENTS "SUPPORT ISRAEL AND WORLD ZIONISM"; AS SUCH, THESE STATEMENTS CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO THE WORLD AT LARGE.

4. THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE STAND TAKEN BY FRANCE IS INTENDED TO DESTROY THE CREDIBILITY WHICH THE EUROPEANS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO CREATE OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS. THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT EUROPEAN POLICIES ARE DRAWN UP AND DETERMINED "BY ONE OF ITS STATES". JORDAN EXPECTS THE EUROPEANS TO RECTIFY THIS IMPRESSION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

5. IN CONCLUSION THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNIQUE CALLS UPON THE ARAB STATES, WHICH HAVE WORKED OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS TO REINFORCE THEIR RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, TO RECONSIDER SUCH POLICIES "SERIOUSLY, QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY" SINCE ARAB INTERESTS AND ARAB CAUSES ARE THREATENED BY FRANCE'S REGRETTABLY PROVOCATIVE AND UNEXPECTED STAND.

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