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Prime Minister

You asked me about this today.

A.F.C.  $\frac{1}{2}$  6

UK EYES A

Ref. A07045

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MR. COLES

Jordan/Soviet Union: Surface-to-Air Missiles

The subject of Soviet arms sales to Jordan was discussed in the Weekly Survey of Intelligence, No. 31, Part III, paragraphs 1-7, issued on 6th August 1981. The proposed purchases were seen as meeting an urgent genuine military need for air defence (against Syria), which neither the United States nor the United Kingdom could satisfy.

2. Jordan and the Soviet Union probably signed a deal for the sale of at least four batteries of ZSU 23/4 anti-aircraft artillery and five batteries of SA-8 (Gecko) surface-to-air missiles in October 1981 when a Jordanian military delegation visited the Soviet Union. During his visit to Washington in November, King Hussein revealed publicly that the deal was worth some \$200 million and would be financed by Iraq.

3. Arrangements were noted in January 1982 for 36 Jordanian military personnel to go to the USSR to begin training on ZSU 23/4, which is a mobile gun designed for low-level air defence.

4. The Jordanian Government have agreed that 25 Soviet advisers should go to Jordan in the spring with the first delivery of the SA-8 missiles which are a mobile system for air defence from very low to medium altitudes. After the training, the number of Soviet advisers is to be reduced to seven. Some Jordanian personnel will also go to the USSR for training on the SA-8 system. Deliveries are scheduled to continue until mid-1983.

5. Since the start of the negotiations, Jordanian officials have been alive to the danger of permitting a Soviet military presence in Jordan and have apparently sought to keep it to the minimum. The SA-8, however, is a sophisticated system and it was clear from the beginning that some Soviet advisers would be necessary in the initial stages.

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6. Jordan will be one of the first countries outside the Warsaw Pact to receive SA-8: deliveries were made to Syria and Libya in January 1982. It is possible that Iraq has also received SA-8 or will do so.

7. We have no evidence to confirm the report in the Sunday Telegraph of 31st January that Jordan has agreed to buy SA-2 and SA-6 missiles.

RCA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CONQUEROR

1st February, 1982

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