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TO IMMEDIATE PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 451 OF 24 SEPTEMBER

FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRIME MINISTER

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU AT REQUEST OF PLANNING STAFF WAS RECEIVED FROM AMMAN TELEGRAM NUMBER 394 OF 23 SEPTEMBER.

AND TO INFO ROTUINE BEIRUT, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, RABAT, TEL AVIV, TUNIS, UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON AND SAVING FOR INFO OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS.

JORDAN/MIDDLE EAST.

1. WHEN RECEIVING THE LORD PRIVY SEAL THIS AFTERNOON, KING HUSSEIN REVIEWED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SPOKE WARMLY OF THE ROLE WHICH EUROPE AND IN PARTICULAR THE UK HAD PLAYED IN AVERTING POLARISATION IN THE AREA AND ALSO IN INFLUENCING THE UNITED STATES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

2. THE KING SAID THAT THE ARABS WERE STILL EXCHANGING IDEAS AMONG THEMSELVES AND THAT THEY HAD YET TO REACH A FIRM DECISION ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED IN THE COMING WEEKS. HE REFERRED TO A SUGGESTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FURTHER MEETING OF ARAB LEADERS IN MOROCCO IN EARLY OCTOBER: THE KING DID NOT SAY WHO WAS TO ATTEND IT AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE MEETING WOULD IN FACT HAPPEN. THE LATEST SUGGESTION FROM THE MOROCCANS ABOUT THE PROPOSED COMMISSION FROM ARAB COUNTRIES TO EXPLAIN THE DECISIONS OF THE FEZ SUMMIT WAS THAT IT SHOULD DIVIDE INTO TWO GROUPS, WITH THE MOROCCAN, SAUDI TUNISIAN AND SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES VISITING LONDON AND WASHINGTON, WHILE A SECOND GROUP COMPRISING THE PLO, ALGERIA AND JORDAN WOULD GO TO FRANCE, THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA SEMICOLON HOWEVER THE SYRIANS NOW WANTED TO BE REPRESENTED ONLY AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED AT FEZ. THE KING EXPRESSED REGRET THAT JORDAN MIGHT NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE DELEGATION VISITING LONDON, EMPHASISING THAT NOTHING HAD YET BEEN FIRMLY AGREED.

3. THE KING MENTIONED THAT ARAFAT'S VISIT TO JORDAN HAD NOW BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE EID HOLIDAY, IE UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER. HE UNDERSTOOD IT WAS ARAFAT'S INTENTION TO SPEND SOME DAYS IN JORDAN.

4. THE KING SAID HE VERY MUCH HOPED IT WOULD PROVE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING CONTRUCTIVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND AGREED WITH BARONESS YOUNG THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO THE US ELECTIONS. AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR NOT LOSING TIME WAS THE THAT HE THOUGHT IT QUITE PROBABLE THAT JORDAN WOULD BE ISRAEL'S NEXT TARGET AFTER LEBANON. HE THOUGHT IT REGRETTABLE THAT MR BEGIN SEEMED FOR THE TIME BEING TO HAVE OVERCOME HIS NTERNAL PROBLEMS, AS IT SEHOWED THAT HS POLICIES CONTINUED TO ENJOY A LARGE MEASURE OF POPULAR SUPPORT WITHIN ISRAEL THE KING SA^W RECENT ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON AS AIMED PRIMARILY AT HUMILIATING THE AMERICANS AND DESTROYING THEIR CREDIBIILITY IN THE AREA.

BUT NO FIRM DECISIONS HAD YET BEEN TAKEN AND HE AND THE OTHER ARABS NEEDED MORE TIME TO PULL THEIR THOUGHTS TOGETHER.

5. IN A BRIEF REFERENCE TO THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR, THE KING SAID HE REGARDED A MAJOR IRANIAN OFFENSIVE AS IMMINENT SEMICOLON HE VERY MUCH HOPED THE IRAQIS WOULD PROVE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IT.

6. IN EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION OF BARONESS YOUNGS VISIT, THE KING SAID HOW IMPORTANT HE REGARDED IT IN THE DIFFICULT TIMES THROUGH WHICH THE AREA WAS PASSING THAT THE JORDANIANS SHOULD KEEP IN THE CLOSEST TOUCH WITH THEIR FRIENDS.

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