

Middle East

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FM PARIS 181150Z NOV 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1099 OF 18 NOVEMBER 1982

INFO PRIORITY AMMAN

INFO ROUTINE BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, RABAT, TUNIS, CAIRO, WASHINGTON,  
TEL AVIV, UKMIS NEW YORK.

INFO SAVING TO MOSCOW.

AMMAN TEL NO 490: VISIT TO PARIS BY ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION

1. KING HUSSEIN LED A DELEGATION TO MEET MITTERRAND ON THE MORNING OF 16 NOVEMBER. IT INCLUDED THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, ALGERIA AND TUNISIA, THE MOROCCAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION (LARAKI), KADDOUMI (PLO) AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE. HUSSEIN STAYED ON AFTER THE MEETING FOR A PRIVATE LUNCH WITH MITTERRAND.

2. AFTERWARDS THE ELYSEE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT MITTERRAND HAD TOLD THE DELEGATION THAT THERE WAS 'CONVERGENCE' BETWEEN THEIR ACTION AND THAT OF FRANCE. HE HAD SPOKEN TO THE DELEGATION AS HE HAD SPOKEN IN THE KNESSET. THE SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT ON THAT OCCASION MITTERRAND HAD SAID THAT DIALOGUE REQUIRED MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF OTHERS' RIGHT TO EXISTENCE.

3. HUSSEIN TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE TALKS HAD BEEN 'VERY ENCOURAGING AND USEFUL' AND THAT THERE WERE MORE POINTS OF AGREEMENT THAN DISAGREEMENT. FRANCE REGARDED THE FEZ INITIATIVE AS 'POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE'. HE PLAYED DOWN REPORTS OF DIFFERENCES OVER THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION (FRENCH SOURCES HAD BEEN REPORTED AS SAYING THAT FRANCE WANTED THE ARABS TO RECOGNISE ISRAEL MORE EXPLICITLY THAN IN THE FEZ PLAN).

4. KADDOUMI DESCRIBED THE MEETING WITH MITTERRAND AS 'POSITIVE AND FRUITFUL' BUT KHADDAM SAID THAT FEZ WAS A 'MINIMUM PLAN'.

5. THE DEPUTY DIPLOMATIC ADVISER AT THE ELYSEE HAS TOLD US THAT THE FULL TALKS HAD BEEN A SET PIECE WITH EACH SIDE SETTING OUT ITS WELL KNOWN POSITIONS. HUSSEIN HAD SPOKEN ALONG THE SAME LINES AS HASSAN IN WASHINGTON. THE FRENCH HAD PUT THE ACCENT ON RECOGNITION BECAUSE THAT WAS THE POINT IN THE PRESENT SITUATION WHERE THERE MIGHT BE MOST GIVE. GAILLARD SAID THAT HUSSEIN DID NOT SEEM TO REGARD THIS FRENCH APPROACH AS UNHELPFUL.

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6. THERE WAS A HINT OF THIS LAST POINT IN THE SECTION ON THE VISIT IN THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING ON 17 NOVEMBER. AFTER DESCRIBING NEUTRALLY THE CONTACT WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION THE COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT THE PRIVATE MEETING WITH HUSSEIN HAD SHOWN "AN INTERESTING IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN JORDAN AND FRANCE".

7. THE WEEKLY NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR REPORTED ON 13 NOVEMBER THAT HUSSEIN, HASSAN AND FAHD HAD DECIDED TO HASTEN THE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL BY THE PLO, BACK THE REAGAN PLAN AND HELP GEMAYEL, AND THAT MITTERRAND, BOURGUIBA AND MUBARAK HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THIS (CF PARA 1 OF TUR).

8. AT A FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE HUSSEIN SAID THAT "EVIDENTLY THE GENERAL FEELING IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME FORM OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION". HOWEVER THE ARABS DID NOT KNOW WHAT BORDERS THEY WERE BEING ASKED TO RECOGNISE. THE DIFFERENCES WITH FRANCE WERE MORE A MATTER OF FORM THAN OF SUBSTANCE. THE REAGAN PLAN CONTAINED SOME "VERY POSITIVE" POINTS.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO MOSCOW.

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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