

Middle East

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM WASHINGTON 172324Z FEB 83

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 390 OF 17 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE AMMAN, TEL AVIV ROUTINE, MOSCOW, PARIS UKMIS NEW YORK, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, CAIRO, TUNIS, RABAT, ALGIERS

AMMAN TELNO 67: JORDAN/P L O

1. CLUVERIUS TOLD US TODAY THAT KING HUSSEIN MADE IT CLEAR TO AMBASSADOR VIETS ON 16 FEBRUARY THAT HE WAS NOT (NOT) LINKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH AGREEMENT ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON. BUT THE KING WAS NOT PREPARED ACTUALLY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THERE WAS SUCH AN AGREEMENT. IN PRACTICE, CLUVERIUS THOUGHT THAT AT LEAST PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN.

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2. WE ASKED CLUVERIUS ABOUT THE NATURE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ASSURANCE TO KING HUSSEIN ON A SETTLEMENTS FREEZE. HE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT QUOTE GUARANTEED UNQUOTE A SETTLEMENTS FREEZE NOR HAD HE PROMISED EXPLICITLY TO SEEK ONE. WHAT HE HAD SAID WAS THAT HE WOULD NOT EXPECT THE KING TO SIT DOWN AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE UNTIL THERE WAS A FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS. CLUVERIUS ADDED THAT THE KING WAS SATISFIED WITH THIS FORMULA WHICH CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD DO ALL HE COULD TO BRING ABOUT SUCH A FREEZE. FURTHER DETAILS BY TELETYPE.

3. KING HUSSEIN CONFIRMED TO VIETS THAT ARAFAT WANTED TEN DAYS FOR CONSULTATIONS AFTER THE P N C MEETING BEFORE HE SAW THE JORDANIANS AGAIN. THERE WOULD THEREFORE BE SOME SLIPPAGE FROM THE KINGS TARGET OF 1 MARCH, BUT KING HUSSEIN ANSWERED VIETS THAT HE WOULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO BE PROLONGED.

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