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Middle East

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 607 OF 12 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE MIDDLE EAST POSTS (INC. RIYADH), UKMIS NEW YORK, ROME
PARIS, BONN, MOSCOW, OTTAWA (PS/PUS).

MY VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST.
PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO SHULTZ.

BEGINS

DEAR GEORGE:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGES. I HAD INTENDED TO TELEGRAPH SOME
PRELIMINARY IMPRESSIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER MY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.
BUT FOLLOWING KING HUSSEIN'S STATEMENT AND MY DECISION TO GO AND SEE
HIM I THOUGHT IT BETTER TO WAIT.

I HAD A GOOD TALK WITH HUSSEIN. HE TOLD ME HE HAD SET OUT HIS VIEWS
FULLY IN A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT, SO I NEED NOT REPEAT THEM TO
YOU.

HE WAS IN A CALM BUT SOMBRE MOOD. HE CLEARLY FEELS THAT WHILE HE HAS
DONE ALL THAT COULD BE EXPECTED OF HIM TO ENABLE NEGOTIATIONS TO GET
STARTED, OTHERS HAVE FAILED TO RISE TO THE OCCASION. AMONGST THOSE
HE INCLUDES, OF COURSE, THE PLO LEADERSHIP, WHICH HE BELIEVES IS
MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ITS OWN CONDITION THAN CONDITIONS ON THE WEST
BANK: AND LEADERS OF CERTAIN FRIENDLY ARAB COUNTRIES WHO HAVE
REFRAINED FROM GIVING THE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE PLO THE SAME
DEGREE OF SUPPORT THE SYRIANS (WITH CLOSE RUSSIAN ASSISTANCE) HAVE
GIVEN THE EXTREMISTS. I MUST ALSO TELL YOU THAT HE BELIEVES YOU
PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE MOVED MUCH FASTER AND MORE DECISIVELY TO GET THE
ISRAELIS OUT OF LEBANON AND PUT A STOP TO THEIR SETTLEMENTS ON THE

WEST BANK.

I ASKED HUSSEIN WHETHER HIS STATEMENT WAS INTENDED TO INDUCE THE PLO
TO THINK AGAIN. HE CONFIRMED THAT IN PART AT LEAST IT WAS SHOCK
TREATMENT BUT HE DID NOT SEEM VERY HOPEFUL THAT THE PLO COULD
RESPOND TO IT. HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT IN DUE
COURSE THE ORGANISATION WOULD SPLIT, BUT EQUALLY HE DID NOT SEEM
TO THINK THIS WAS LIKELY TO HAPPEN SOON.

I TOLD THE KING THAT I NATURALLY WANTED TO SEE THE PEACE PROCESS
CONTINUE AND WOULD BE CONSULTING YOU AND OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO
SEE HOW BEST WE COULD HELP HIM. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT
WANT TO PRONOUNCE THE PROCESS DEAD, AS THINGS STOOD HE HIMSELF HAD
REACHED A DEAD-END. WHEN I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD REVIVE
THE PROCESS HE SAID THAT UNLESS THE LEBANESE NEGOTIATIONS, ON WHICH
HE HAD JUST HAD A VERY GLOOMY BRIEFING FROM ELIE SALEM, COULD BE
SUCCESSFULLY AND RAPIDLY CONCLUDED NO ARAB WOULD BELIEVE IN AMERICAN
ABILITY TO DELIVER. (THE SAUDIS HAD EARLIER SAID THE SAME TO ME).

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THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO TAKE SOME FIRM ACTION OVER THE SETTLEMENTS. IF BOTH THESE THINGS COULD BE DONE THE CLIMATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

MY OWN VIEW IS THAT IF, AS WE ALL HOPE, THE REAGAN PROPOSALS ARE TO BE KEPT ALIVE IT WILL NEED SOME IMAGINATIVE EVEN DRAMATIC, ACTION EMANATING FROM THE PRESIDENT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. FAILING THAT WE MAY FACE AN EARLY RUSSIAN MOVE TO RE-ENTER THE SCENE BY RESUSCITATING THEIR PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AND - MORE IMPORTANT - A WEAKENING OF THE WESTERN POSITION EVEN AMONG THE MODERATE ARABS. I IMAGINE YOU HAVE THESE SAME CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND YOURSELF.

I WILL ASK OLIVER WRIGHT TO ARRANGE FOR YOUR OFFICIALS TO HAVE A DETAILED BRIEFING ON MY TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UAE. KING HUSSEIN CLEARLY FEELS THE NEED FOR STAUNCHER SUPPORT FROM HIS ARAB FRIENDS, BUT HE IS DEFINITELY NOT IN FAVOUR OF AN ARAB SUMMIT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

BEST WISHES,

FRANCIS

ENDS

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MIDDLE EAST

STANDARD

NENAD	MAED
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NAD	EED
SAD	ESID
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