

Amman, 17 November, 1983

Dear Sir Anthony,

As a continuation of our exchange of views, I should like to advise you of a brief visit to the United States where I addressed the Middle East bipartisan peace consultation hosted by former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford at Atlanta, Georgia, I feel more concerned about the apparent pre-election year drift in American policy toward peace-making in the Middle East. There seems to be a certain lack of appreciation in Washington of recent developments and the urgency for quick collaborative action to deal with the rapid deterioration.

The general situation in the Middle East grows more alarming by the day. Recent events have become so serious that they are likely to leave their imprint on the political scene for a long period of time. They may also allow the Soviet Union to improve and strengthen its position in the region as a whole; such an outcome in the absence of superpower dialogue towards peace could encourage the Russians to offer greater moral and material support for those local forces that seek the destabilisation of moderate and peace-seeking states. The Russians have endeavoured to counteract American determination to exclude them from the peace process. It is a matter of vital importance to us all that the two superpowers should embark on a dialogue for a common approach to peace-making in the Middle East. It will be a constructive move on the part of the United States to involve the Soviets so that the danger of polarisation may be prevented and another disastrous war averted.

However, the prospects for such a positive development in the immediate future look rather dim. The Syrian attempt to dominate and control the 'political will' of the Palestinian people could ultimately deprive them of an independent voice to express and defend their interests in international councils. The absence of Arab institutions to represent the wishes of the main Palestinian constituency under Israeli occupation has compounded the pressures to which Jordan is subjected. The Syrian onslaught on the Palestinians in Lebanon, coupled by the Israeli policies in the occupied territories, will eventually produce a confrontation between two potential regional powers seeking to impose their hegemony on the region.

Pressures on Jordan will be mounted from both the West and the North, accompanied by demographic movement toward the country from both sides, as a result of the economic and social dislocations among Palestinians at home and in the diaspora. The influx of a disgruntled population into Jordan would only serve to reinforce the current trends towards extremist politics. Conditions could become so propitious as to allow both the Israelis and the Soviet-backed Syrians to indulge in more adventurist policies which threaten the peace and stability of the whole region. Their enhanced position may permit them to establish a linkage between the Mediterranean littoral and the Red Sea-Gulf theatre, where they want to influence the course of future events.

Jordan is seriously considering the nature of the Palestinian-Jordanian inter-family relationship. Our sole objective, as it has always been, is to protect the Arab identity of the principal Palestinian constituency under Israeli occupation. The preservation of the national character of the Arab community of Palestinians will undoubtedly help us to maintain Jordan's 'middle-ground' posi-

tion between the politics of extremes. We require all the help and support we can obtain to hold on to our present course.

Unfortunately, the prevalent strategic thinking in Washington is inclined to overlook these fundamental considerations. It is mainly for this reason that I have called for the establishment of a bi-partisan peace approach in the United States and the other democracies of the world. We look expectantly to a firm stand by the U.S. in aid of a just and durable peace, at a time when Jordan's basic support is undermined, as was shown over the so-called 'Jordan Rapid Deployment Force'.

As always, I would value your comments on these thoughts, and I very much hope the occasion will arise when we may meet before your retirement this year.

Yours very sincerely,

Sir Anthony Parsons, KCMG, MVO, MC
Foreign Affairs Advisor to
the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London S.W.1

Prince Hassan
PRINCE HASSAN