

ORIGINAL RETURNED  
TO SIKAF  
SECRET

Prime Minister.

S. A. Paran.

MR. COLES ✓

AA-1/12

MT

MIDDLE EAST

I called on Prince Hassan of Jordan this morning. The King had telephoned him shortly before my arrival to say that he had received a positive reply to his letter to Reagan. Prince Hassan wondered how positive it was and what the Americans would in fact do for Jordan if the King stuck his neck out.

We first discussed his latest letter to me, copy attached.

I told him that, in my personal opinion, I saw no likelihood, at least during the next 18 months, of the United States agreeing to any form of cooperation with the Soviet Union over the Middle East. He would be deluding himself if he thought otherwise.

Hassan then outlined a series of steps which the Jordanians were contemplating designed to, in his words, preempt the Syrians and the Israelis from destroying his country. Specifically, they are contemplating:

1. Recourse to the ICJ, probably via the General Assembly, in order to get an advisory opinion on the question of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Israeli behaviour towards the inhabitants of the Occupied Territories.
2. Action in the Security Council to reaffirm SCR 242 and to affirm the illegality of the Israeli settlements.
3. Action with the Americans and the Europeans in regard to the economic and social condition of the inhabitants of Arab Palestine.
4. The initiative regarding the recall of the Jordanian Parliament.

In discussion, it emerged that Hassan was less sanguine than his brother about major initiative ie re-launching the Jordanian Parliament with West Bank representation. He thought that the King would be reluctant to take a fresh initiative unless he was sure of PLO approval, assuming that Arafat survived the battle in Tripoli. But Hussein was more optimistic about Arafat's future behaviour than Hassan was. Hassan was also realistically dubious about the extent

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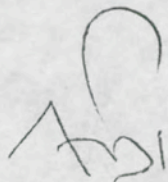
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to which they could extract the necessary public commitment from  
the United States.

All this fits in with the note on the Middle East which I sent down  
yesterday.

At the end of our meeting, Prince Hassan asked me if I would consider  
writing a definitive, official biography of King Hussein after I  
retire. I agreed to discuss this further with the two brothers when  
I visit Amman, probably next February.



A.D. PARSONS  
30 November 1983

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