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DD WASHINGTON 191830Z

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DESKBY 191830Z

FROM FCO 191700Z JUL 85

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1130 OF 19 JULY 1985

INFO IMMEDIATE (PERSONAL FOR HM REPRESENTATIVES) AMMAN, TEL AVIV

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN: 19 JULY 1985

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO SHULTZ:

BEGINS

'THE PRIME MINISTER AND I SAW KING HUSSEIN AND ZAID RIFA'I TODAY TO TALK OVER THE PROGRESS OF HIS INITIATIVE. THE KING TOLD US THAT HE HAD NOW SENT YOU A LIST OF NAMES FROM WHICH THE PALESTINIAN MEMBERS OF A JOINT JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DELEGATION MIGHT BE CHOSEN. THE JORDANIANS THEMSELVES HAD WHITTLED DOWN ARAFAT'S ORIGINAL LIST OF TWENTY-TWO TO THE SEVEN NAMES WHICH HE PUT FORWARD TO YOU. HE RECOGNISED THAT YOU WOULD NOT ACCEPT KHALID AL-HASSAN BUT HOPED THAT YOU WOULD FIND NO DIFFICULTY IN AGREEING TO FOUR NAMES FROM AMONG THE OTHER SIX. INDEED HE SEEMED FULLY CONFIDENT THAT YOU WOULD. WE ASKED WHY THE PLO HAD BEEN SO DILATORY IN PUTTING FORWARD NAMES. THE KING EXPLAINED THAT ARAFAT HAD BEEN KEEN TO GET THE UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT OF ALL THE MAIN ORGANS OF THE PLO.

'AS YOU WILL KNOW, THE KING ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ARRANGING A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND A JOINT DELEGATION BEFORE THE END OF JULY. HE IS UNEASY ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF AN ARAB SUMMIT, FOR WHICH THE MOROCCANS ARE CANVASSING THE DATE OF 29 JULY: HE SEES A RISK THAT IT WOULD DISRUPT THE PROCESS ON WHICH HE HAS EMBARKED. HE IS ALSO KEEN TO HOLD A FIRST MEETING SOON IN ORDER TO GET ARAFAT FULLY COMMITTED TO THE PROCESS OF DIALOGUE. HE RECOGNISES THAT A MEETING HELD AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE COULD NOT DISCUSS ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE. THE PURPOSE WOULD SIMPLY BE TO LAUNCH THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND A JOINT DELEGATION. BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND I

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FEEL THAT THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID FOR KEEPING UP THE MOMENTUM AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL FEEL ABLE TO AGREE TO AN EARLY MEETING DESPITE THE SHORT NOTICE.

'WE FOUND THE KING RATHER MORE REALISTIC THAN ON HIS LAST VISIT HERE ABOUT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS INITIATIVE. HE CONTINUES TO SEE THE PRIORITY AS BEING TO GET TO A POSITION WHERE THE PLO PUBLICLY ACCEPT UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AND THUS QUALIFY THEMSELVES FOR DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE WELCOMED PERES' RECENT MEETING WITH WEST BANK LEADERS AND THE INDICATIONS THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH A DELEGATION INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PNC. HE DOES NOT APPEAR HOWEVER, TO HAVE GIVEN MUCH FURTHER THOUGHT TO THE ACTUAL LAUNCHING OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

'WE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH THE KING HIS REQUEST THAT WE SHOULD RECEIVE A JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DELEGATION INCLUDING FORMER MAYOR MILHEM AND BISHOP KHOURI. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT WE WOULD BE READY IN PRINCIPLE TO DO THIS PROVIDED THAT MILHEM AND KHOURI WERE PREPARED TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHILE HERE, RENOUNCING VIOLENCE AND MAKING CLEAR THEIR PERSONAL ACCEPTANCE OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. THE KING SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD DO THIS. THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT (NOT) WANT TO UPSET THE SEQUENCE OF MEETINGS YOU HAVE IN MIND. SHE ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT WANT TO ANNOUNCE A DECISION TO RECEIVE SUCH A DELEGATION UNTIL YOU HAD AGREED THE NAMES AND SET A DATE FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY'S MEETING WITH THE JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DELEGATION. THE TIMING OF OUR MEETING WAS LEFT OPEN, AND I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THIS BECOMES CLEAR.

'I SHOULD BE INTERESTED TO HEAR HOW YOU SEE THE NEXT STEPS, AND PARTICULARLY THE TIMING OF A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND A JOINT DELEGATION. THE KING IS ANXIOUS TO KEEP THE PROCESS MOVING FORWARD BEFORE HIS FREEDOM OF MANOEUVRE CAN BE RESTRICTED OR ARAFAT LET OFF THE HOOK BY SOME WIDER ARAB MOVES TO RESUSCITATE THE FEZ DECLARATION. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SUPPORT HIM IN THIS.'

ENDS

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2. FOR AMMAN AND TEL AVIV. THE ABOVE IS FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION ONLY. WE ARE TELEGRAPHING A PRESS LINE SEPARATELY. YOU SHOULD CONFINE YOUR RESPONSE TO ALL ENQUIRIES STRICTLY TO THE PRESS LINE.

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