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TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, DAMASCUS, BAGHDAD, CAIRO, (PERSONAL FOR HM REPRESENTATIVES). WASHINGTON (PERSONAL FOR HEAD OF CHANCERY).

YOUR TELNO 139: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

SUMMARY

1. KING HUSSEIN IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S EFFORTS IN ISRAEL AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THEIR MEETING IN LONDON ON 17 JUNE. HE BELIEVES PRESIDENT ASAD IS NOT PERSONALLY IMPLICATED IN TERRORISM AND STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF HANDLING SYRIA WITH SUBTLETY. HE CONSIDERS THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN BRINGING SYRIA AND IRAQ CLOSER TOGETHER.

DETAIL

2. I DELIVERED TO KING HUSSEIN ON 29 MAY THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE IN YOUR TELNO 139 (NOT TO ALL). HE READ IT ATTENTIVELY AND ASKED ME WITH EMPHASIS TO CONVEY TO THE PRIME MINISTER HIS GREAT ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY SHE HAD CONDUCTED THE VISIT AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR HER EFFORTS TO GET TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM.

3. HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSING POINTS IN THE MESSAGE WHEN HE MEETS THE PRIME MINISTER IN LONDON. HE ACCEPTED AT ONCE THE OFFER OF 1700 HOURS ON 17 JUNE (JERUSALEM TELNO 21 NOT TO ALL). ON PRESENT PLANS THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER WILL BE WITH HIM BUT THE KING WILL MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS WHEN HE REACHES LONDON FROM THE US ON EITHER 14 OR 15 JUNE. I SUGGEST YOU CHECK WITH THE JORDANIAN EMBASSY THEN AS TO WHO WILL ACCOMPANY THE KING.

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4. MEANWHILE THE KING MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE MESSAGE. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN SOME DETAIL THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. REGARDING GAZA HE REMINDED ME THAT HE HAD TOLD ME AT OUR LAST TALK THAT HE AND PRESIDENT MUBARAK HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH A JOINT EGYPTIAN/JORDANIAN WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS OF AN APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, POLITICAL, HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC. HE THINK THE PURPOSE OF THIS REMARK WAS TO COUNTER THE ISRAELI THOUGHT THAT EGYPT MIGHT INTEREST ITSELF IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GAZA WHILE JORDAN BUILT UP ITS POLITICAL LINKS.

5. AS REGARDS THE PARAGRAPH RELATING TO SYRIA HE SAID THAT WITH THAT COUNTRY EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON HOW ISSUES WERE PRESENTED TO H/T. ASAD HAD BRIEFED HIM ON MURPHY'S RECENT SECRET VISIT TO DAMASCUS. MURPHY HAD BEGUN BY "POUNING THE TABLE", SO MUCH SO THAT ASAD HAD INSTRUCTED HIS PEOPLE TO DELAY A SECOND MEETING WITH MURPHY AND HAD BEEN ON THE POINT OF ASKING HIM TO LEAVE SYRIA. THEN THE TONE HAD CHANGED. CONFRONTATION TACTICS SIMPLY DID NOT WORK WITH THE SYRIANS; BULLYING MERELY MADE THEM INFLEXIBLE.

6. THE KING THEN SAID THAT HE NOW PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT ASAD HAD NOT HIMSELF BEEN INVOLVED IN THE AUTHORIZATION, OR ANY OTHER ASPECT, OF RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS. ON THE CONTRARY, ASAD WAS WELL AWARE OF THE HARM TERRORISM DID BOTH TO SYRIA AND TO THE MORE GENERAL IMAGE OF THE REGION. IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT FOLLOWING THE ISRAELI HIJACK OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRYING SYRIANS RETURNING FROM A CONFERENCE IN LIBYA, ASAD HAD IN ANGER SAID SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME REACTION. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR OTHERS IN THE SYRIAN MACHINE TO PLAN TERRORIST ACTION, BELIEVING IT WAS WHAT ASAD WOULD WANT.

7. ASAD HAD ASKED HIM TO PASS ON ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE WHICH APPEARED TO POINT TO SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM. HE WOULD THEN DEAL WITH IT. THE KING SAID TO ME THAT IF SUCH EVIDENCE BECAME AVAILABLE TO US WE MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER LETTING HIM TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH ASAD. HE WOULD KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HIM. EVERYTHING, HE REPEATED, DEPENDED ON HOW YOU APPROACHED ASAD.

8. HE COMMENTED THAT IF PRESIDENT ASAD WAS NOT PRIVY TO ACTS OF TERRORISM THAT WAS TO SOME EXTENT REASSURING AND IT WAS IMPORTANT TO US TO HAVE THE KING'S JUDGEMENT ON THE MATTER WHICH HE WOULD REPORT.

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9. HE THEN SAID THAT DURING OUR LAST TALK HE HAD TOLD ME WITH CONFIDENCE OF HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ. HE ADMIRERD THE ENERGY HE WAS PUTTING INTO THIS (HE HAS SINCE BEEN TO SYRIA AND IRAQ AND SENT THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER TO SEE PRESIDENT ASAD DURING HIS VISIT TO GREECE). WAS HE MAKING PROGRESS? HE SAID THAT HE WAS. HE HAD HOPED THAT A MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES BEFORE HE LEFT FOR FRANCE, THE US AND THE UK ON 2 JUNE BUT THAT DID NOT NOW SEEM LIKELY. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THAT THE SYRIAN AND IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD MEET IN VERY SECRET CIRCUMSTANCES SHORTLY AND WOULD SPEAK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIEWS WHICH THEIR RESPECTIVE PRESIDENTS HAD EXPRESSED TO HIM. BOTH SIDES WERE LOOKING FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEM WHICH WOULD STAND THE TEST OF TIME AND CONTAIN APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS. BEYOND THAT HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE AN IRAQI/SYRIAN SUMMIT, PERHAPS WITH JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION. THEN THERE MIGHT BE SCOPE FOR AN ARAB SUMMIT WITH A BROAD AGENDA.

10. IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE KING'S REMARKS HE AM REPEATING THIS TELEGRAM TO TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, DAMASCUS, BAGHDAD AND CAIRO FOR THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF HM REPRESENTATIVES AND WASHINGTON FOR THE HEAD OF CHANCERY WHO SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO KING HUSSEIN WAS CLASSIFIED SECRET AND THAT THE KING'S COMMENTS UPON IT SHOULD, HE SUGGEST, ACCORDINGLY BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED.

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