



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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2 November 1990

*Dear Charles,*

*W*

Prime Minister's Meeting with King Hussein,  
Geneva, 6 November

The Prime Minister has agreed to see King Hussein in the margin of the Second World Climate Conference in Geneva on 6 November. You will have seen the Foreign Secretary's minute to the Prime Minister of 1 November. — *into 48?*

*attached* The Prime Minister's last meeting with the King on 31 August left him in no doubt that our perception of the Gulf Crisis differed profoundly from his and that we were disappointed at Jordan's response. Since then Jordan's sanctions performance has greatly improved, as the Prime Minister acknowledged at OD(G) on 18 October. — *minutes attached*

The Prime Minister might take this opportunity to welcome Jordan's achievement and to encourage the King to continue in this direction. We believe that Jordan's future lies firmly with the international majority and that its application of sanctions is an acknowledgement of this. The Prime Minister may wish to welcome Jordan's request for a UN monitoring presence on its border with Iraq to observe Jordan's sanctions performance. The Prime Minister might say that Jordan's continuing application of sanctions will be the key to the availability of urgent international financial assistance. If the King asks what further help the UK can provide, The Prime Minister might say that we will keep pressure on those countries able to contribute to do so quickly. We have already argued the case for early release of assistance with a number of potential contributors. The UK is already making a major contribution to the international force in the Gulf and a considerable contribution to economic support for Jordan via the EC. We look to those who are not sending forces to lighten Jordan's financial burden.

The King may ask the Prime Minister about the supply of defence equipment to Jordan from the UK. In her last message to him, on 21 September, the Prime Minister said that the

*attached*

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Government were authorising the resumption of arms exports to Jordan, following the King's personal assurance to the Prime Minister on 31 August that they would not go elsewhere. But deliveries are proving difficult because of the controls being operated by US Navy vessels in the approaches to Aqaba. Despite intervention in Washington, a vessel carrying spares for the transmission system of the Khalid tank was twice refused access but was successful at the third attempt. The problem was that this particular vessel carried other commercial cargo, some of it loaded at a European port, for which the documentation had proved inadequate. Another vessel carrying a larger amount of military equipment for Jordan is due to leave Hull around 6 November for Aqaba. Again we are taking action with the Americans.

In her message of 21 September the Prime Minister told the King that given the presence of the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Gulf we needed to be sure that anti-tank missiles exported to Jordan were indeed in service with the Jordanian armed forces. The Jordanians have proposed inspection arrangements which go a fair way towards meeting our concerns (although no arrangements can be foolproof). But the Trade and Industry Secretary still has misgivings about exporting the missiles. Ministers are corresponding in order to resolve this. If the King does raise arms supplies, the Prime Minister may wish to tell him of the efforts being made to get them to Jordan.

(S L Gass)  
Private Secretary

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