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DESKBY 281300Z MAY 80  
FM AMMAN 281122Z MAY 80  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 197 OF 28 MAY  
SAVING TO CAIRO DAMASCUS TEL AVIV UKMIS NEWYORK AND WASHINGTON

KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO BRITAIN

1. KING HUSSEIN'S AIRCRAFT LEFT AMMAN MORE THAN AN HOUR BEHIND SCHEDULE THIS MORNING. THE TOLD ME AT THE AIRPORT HOW MUCH HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER LATER TODAY AND THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE HE WOULD CUT OUT THE PLANNED REFUELLING STOP AT GENEVA IN ORDER TO ARRIVE IN TIME FOR HIS APPOINTMENT WITH MRS THATCHER THIS AFTERNOON. HE INTENDS REMAINING IN LONDON UNTIL 3 JUNE.
2. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS KING HUSSEIN, CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS HAVE ALL REITERATED TO A VISITING GROUP OF BRITISH MEMEBERS OF PARLIAMENT THE NECESSITY FOR SOME KIND OF EUROPEAN INITIATIVE. AS THE KING PUT IT, MOVEMENT WAS NEEDED ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND NEEDED SOON. IDEALLY SUCH AN INITIATIVE SHOULD EVENTUALLY INVOLVE THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION AND WESTERN EUROPE: HE CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW EGYPT'S TRUE POSITION, BUT SAID THAT AS FAR AS SADAT HIMSELF WAS CONCERNED HE WAS INCLINED TO LET BY-GONES BE BY-GONES. PRINCE HASSAN WAS EVEN MORE SPECIFIC IN STATING THAT JORDANIANS DID NOT IN ANY WAY EXPECT THE US TO REPUDIATE THE OBVIOUS GAINS FROM CAMP DAVID AND HE ACCEPTED THAT THE EUROPEANS WERE NOT LIKELY TO LAUNCH AN INITIATIVE IN FACE OF A US VETO.
3. ALL THREE WERE RELUCTANT TO BE DRAWN ON PRECISELY WHAT FORM AN INITIATIVE SHOULD TAKE. BUT THE PRIME MINISTER IN PARTICULAR CALLED FOR A SPECIFIC STATEMENT OF POSITION FROM THE EUROPEANS, NOTABLY ON THE NEED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION: ACTIVITY FOR ITS OWN SAKE MERELY DESIGNED TO FILL THE GAP UNTIL A NEW US PRESIDENT WAS IN OFFICE WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT.
4. KING HUSSEING WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO TELL THE VISITING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND JORDAN HAD NEVER BEEN CLOSER OR BETTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE IN SIMILAR TERMS.

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