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cc. Middle East: Arms Sales to

Middle Eastern Countries: Pt 2.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-~~932 7022~~ 218 2111/3

MO 26/9/19

7th April 1981

John Michael

KHALID TANKS FOR JORDAN

You will already have received briefing from the FCO for King Hussein's call tomorrow on the Prime Minister. I am writing however, to mention one supplementary point of which she ought to be aware, concerning the delivery of the first batch of Khalid tanks to Jordan. (There is a short background note on the tank order at paragraph 15 of the 'Essential Facts' brief).

There are continuing development problems with the TN37 gearbox which have not been resolved and on which tests are still being conducted. The Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, is being told this evening by Sir Ronald Ellis, Head of Defence Sales, that the gearbox is still giving slight problems but that, to ensure that the Jordanian Army is not inconvenienced, we will be providing both the material and manpower to cope with any gearbox failures which might occur in the early period of its service. The cost of this support will be met by the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister is advised not to raise the subject with King Hussein but, as the latter may be aware of the problem before the meeting, the Prime Minister will wish to know the line which Sir Ronald Ellis has taken. If there is any significant reaction from General bin Shaker, I will let you know early tomorrow morning.

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M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

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I am sending a copy of this letter to Francis Richards (FCO) and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely
J D S Dawson

(J D S DAWSON)

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