

CONFIDENTIAL

FM AMMAN

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 929

OF 311200Z DECEMBER 90

INFO PRIORITY DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV, BAGHDAD, CAIRO, WASHINGTON

JORDAN/SYRIA

1. AT MY AUDIENCE WITH KING HUSSEIN ON 30 DECEMBER, HE MENTIONED THAT HIS PRIME MINISTER, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO DAMASCUS, HAD ENQUIRED WHAT THE SYRIAN ATTITUDE WOULD BE IF ISRAEL WERE TO ATTACK JORDAN. BADRAN HAD RECEIVED AN ASSURANCE THAT SYRIA WOULD REGARD SUCH AN ACTION AS AN ATTACK UPON ITSELF AND WOULD RENDER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

2. THE KING COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS HELPFUL AS FAR AS IT WENT, THOUGH HE HAD MANY RESERVATIONS ABOUT ASSAD'S PRESENT POLICIES. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT HIS GAME REALLY WAS. IN A RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, ASSAD HAD SHED VERY LITTLE LIGHT ON HIS INTENTIONS.

3. I ENQUIRED WHETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF JORDAN'S PRESSING NEED FOR ADDITIONAL WATER RESOURCES, BADRAN HAD ALSO RAISED THE WAHDA DAM. THE KING SAID NOT, ADDING THAT THE AMERICANS WERE STILL WRESTLING WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THE DELICATE ISSUE OF ISRAELI DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL OFF-TAKE FROM THE DAM.

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ARAB/ISRAEL

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