

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES 17

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MR MOBERLY
SIR J BULLARD
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NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

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CONFIDENTIAL

FROM AMMAN 121200Z JUL 1W
TEL NO 304 OF 12 JULY 882

AND TO INFO IMMEDIATE DAMASCUS JEDDA, TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON
AND TO ROUTINE CAIRO, UKMIS NEW YORK AND PARIS.
DAMASCUS TELNO 192: LEBANON.

1. THE US AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT DRAPER WHO HAD SEEN KHADDAM IN DAMASCUS BUT NOT ASAD, HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD TAKE THE PLO POLITICAL LEADERSHIP BUT, IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PLO COMBATANTS. KHADDAM HAD CLAIMED TO DRAPER THAT ASAD'S NRWSITION ON THIS WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE.

2. WHEN THE US AMBASSADOR TOLD KING HUSSEIN OF THIS OVER THE WEEKEND, THE KING'S REACTION, ACCORDING TO VIETS, WAS ONE OF CONSIDERABLE DISTRESS. THE KING REITERATED THAT

WEEKEND, THE KING'S REACTION, ACCORDING TO VIETS,
WAS ONE OF CONSIDERABLE DISTRESS. THE KING REITERATED THAT
EGYPT WAS MUCH PREFERABLE AS A DESTINATION FOR THE PLO AND
THAT THE ARABS MUST LOOK AT THIS POSSIBILITY AGAIN, RATHER
THAN ALLOW THE PLO TO FALL TOTALLY UNDER SYRIAN INFLUENCE.
VIETS COMMENTED TO ME THAT ONE MAJOR DIFFICULTY ABOUT THE
IDEA OF THE PLO'S GOING TO EGYPT WAS THAT THE SAUDIS GAVE NO
IMPRESSION OF BEING INTERESTED IN SUCH A SOLUTION, DESPITE
JORDANIAN PLEADING, AND CONTINUED TO FAVOUR SYRIA AS A
DESTINATION.

3. PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S SPECIAL EMISSARY, OSAMA AL BAZ,
HAS BEEN IN AMMAN OVER THE WEEKEND, WITH A MESSAGE FOR
KING HUSSEIN, AND I SHALL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY ON THIS.

SINDALL

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