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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELNO 3437 OF 22 OCTOBER 1982,

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BEIRUT, CAIRO, JEDDA, TUNIS, RADAT, ALGIERS, PARIS, MOSCOW,  
INFO SAVING OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS.

MIDDLE EAST: ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON

1. THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION, LED BY KING HASSAN, HAD THREE HOURS OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN TODAY AND A SEPARATE MEETING WITH SHULTZ. AFTER THE MEETING REAGAN TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TOWARDS THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. KING HASSAN SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND CO-EXISTENCE (PRESUMABLY IMPLYING CO-EXISTENCE WITH ISRAEL) WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE REAGAN AND FEZ PEACE PROPOSALS AND OF SCR 242 AND 338.

3. CLUVERIUS (STATE DEPARTMENT) HAS TOLD US THAT THE AMERICANS ACHIEVED THEIR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE - OF AVOIDING A DISASTER. THE ARAB DELEGATION HAD BEEN WELL DISCIPLINED: KING HASSAN HAD BEEN THE ONLY SPOKESMAN AT THE WHITE HOUSE. OTHERS HAD SPOKEN BY ARRANGEMENT IN THE MEETING WITH SHULTZ, BUT EVEN THE ALGERIAN AND SYRIAN MINISTERS HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND HAD NOT PUT QUESTIONS WHICH WOULD ELICIT NEGATIVE REPLIES.

3. CLUVERIUS THOUGHT THAT THE ARABS NOW HAD A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE US POSITION. PRESIDENT REAGAN HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS OVER THE CAMP DAVID LABEL. BUT HE ARGUED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT LET THE ISRAELIS OFF THE HOOK BUT SEIZE THE MOMENT TO RECOGNISE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND GIVE KING HUSSEIN A MANDATE TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS. THE DELEGATION HAD ADHERED CLOSELY TO THE POSITION AGREED AT FEZ BUT HAD GIVEN THE IMPRESSION OF BEING READY TO CONSIDER THIS, SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLO. THE POSITION OF THE PLO WAS THEIR MAJOR CONCERN: THEY HAD ARGUED THAT ONLY THE PALESTINIANS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEM COULD NEGOTIATE AND MAKE CONCESSIONS. THERE HAD BEEN A LONG DISCUSSION WITH SHULTZ OF THE WELL-KNOWN CONDITIONS FOR A US/PLO DIALOGUE, (ON WHICH SHULTZ OFFERED NO CONCESSIONS).

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4. CLUVERIUS EXPECTED THE NEXT STEP TO BE A LETTER FROM KING HASSAN TO THE PRESIDENT REHEARSING THE ARAB POSITION AND SEEKING FURTHER CLARIFICATION, WHICH THE AMERICANS WOULD OF COURSE PROVIDE. BILATERAL CONTACTS WOULD CONTINUE, BUT NO DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT COULD BE EXPECTED BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

FCO PASS SAVING TO :- ABU DHABI, ADEN, BAGHDAD, BAHRAIN, DOHA, DUBAI, JERUSALEM, KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, MUSCAT, SANA'A, TRIPOLI.

WRIGHT

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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