

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

~~NR~~ 23

IMMEDIATE

PS (●)
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J LEAHY
MR EGERTON
SIR J BULLARD
HD/NENAD
HD/MED
HD/UND

NO 10 DOWNING STREET ✓
CABINET OFFICE D10

ADVANCE COPY

Mr. Goodison

HD/... ..

HD/CONSULAR DEPT

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PUSD (2)
NEWS D
RESIDENT CLERK

AMMAN DESKBY 040600Z DECEMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM MOSCOW 040530Z DECEMBER

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 816 OF 4 DECEMBER

AND TO IMMEDIATE AMMAN

INFO PRIORITY PEKING

MY TEL 809 : THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO KING HUSSEIN.
(delivered to him in Moscow)

1. I DELIVERED THE MESSAGE PERSONALLY TO KING HUSSEIN AT 1430Z (THE TIMING SLIPPED FROM 1230Z).

2. THE KING READ THE LETTER CAREFULLY. HE HAD NO IMMEDIATE REPLY TO COMEY.

2. THE KING READ THE LETTER CAREFULLY. HE HAD NO IMMEDIATE REPLY TO CONVEY BUT EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S KIND MESSAGE. HE WAS DISTURBED AND DISTRESSED AT THE ARAB LEAGUE FAILURE TO GO TO LONDON. TOO MANY COOKS, HE THOUGHT. HE HOPED BEFORE TOO LONG TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION THE KING TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE PROBLEMS OF LEBANON, ISRAEL; WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS AND THE MANY QUESTIONS WHICH REMAINED IN ADVANCE OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN ON 21 DECEMBER. THE RECENT TALKS IN AMMAN WITH THE PLO HAD HOWEVER GONE VERY WELL. ARAFAT WOULD BE RETURNING TO AMMAN ON 11 DECEMBER TO SEE WHAT WORK THE JOINT COMMITTEES HAD PRODUCED.

3. KING HUSSEIN DESCRIBED THE DELEGATION'S TALKS WITH THE RUSSIANS TODAY (SEE MIFT) AS A " FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE " REVIEW OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. BUT HE COMMENTED OBLIQUELY THAT THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN " VERY MUCH THE DIFFICULTIES WE FORSAW : OUR FRIENDS HERE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION ".

4. THE MEETING WAS SHORT AND THE KING CLEARLY FELT CONSTRAINED IN WHAT HE COULD SAY IN IN INSECURE SURROUNDINGS OF A SOVIET OFFICIAL GUEST-HOUSE. HE SEEMED TIRED AND RATHER WEIGHED DOWN WITH HIS PROBLEMS. IN THE CONTEXT OF ISRAELI MOVES ON THE WEST BANK HE COMMENTED AT ONE POINT " THE PRESSURE IS UNBELIEVABLE AT THIS STAGE ".

SUTHERLAND

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