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FM RABAT 101000Z FEB 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 96 OF 10 FEBRUARY

INFO PRIORITY ALGIERS, TUNIS, JEDDA, DAMASCUS, AMMAN

MY TELNO 86: ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT

1. STILL NO REPLY FROM THE MOROCCANS ABOUT DATES. BOUCETTA HAS BEEN AWAY FROM RABAT. I SPOKE TO TAZI, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, YESTERDAY EVENING. HE SAID HE DOUBTED WHETHER THE KING WOULD GIVE US A REPLY UNTIL AFTER NEXT WEEK'S PNC MEETING IN ALGIERS.

2. THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE. THE IMPORTANT THING JUST AT PRESENT FOR MODERATES LIKE HASSAN, IS THAT ARAFAT ESTABLISHES HIS POSITION AT THE PNC MEETING. A CONCESSION IN REGARD TO PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ON THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR ARAFAT THEREAFTER, BUT IS CERTAINLY NOT ON THE CARDS NOW. AND HASSAN WOULD NATURALLY NOT WANT TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT ARAFAT'S AGREEMENT IF THAT CAN EVENTUALLY BE OBTAINED.

3. RABAT IS STILL BUZZING WITH STORIES ABOUT GENERAL DLIMI'S DEATH. I STILL THINK IT WAS NO MORE THAN AN ACCIDENT. ALL THE SAME, THE KING IS REPORTED BY MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE (WHO SAW HIM ON 5 FEBRUARY) TO BE WORRIED BY THE RUMOUR-MONGERING AND MAY WELL NOT WANT TO LEAVE MOROCCO UNTIL THE EXCITEMENT DIES DOWN. TAZI THOUGHT IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD NOT (NOT) ATTEND THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. ALL THIS SUGGESTS THAT WE CAN VIRTUALLY RULE OUT A FEBRUARY DATE FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT.

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