

MIDDLE EAST: ADVANCE COPIES

~~12~~ (21)

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

ED/...  
ED/CONSULAR DEPT

SENT  
13 MAR 1983

PUSD (2)  
NEWS D  
RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY FCO 131200Z

FM AMMAN 131005Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE F C O TELEGRAM NUMBER 96 OF 13TH MARCH 1983.  
REPEATED IMMEDIATE TO ALGIERS, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, RABAT AND TUNIS.  
REPEATED ROUTINE TO OTHER MIDDLE EAST POSTS, MOSCOW, PARIS,  
ROME, UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

MY TELNO 93: ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION

1. KING HUSSEIN TELEPHONED ME AGAIN TWICE ON THE EVENING OF 11 MARCH, ONCE TO SAY THAT THE ITALIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO JORDAN HAD BEEN PUT OFF (UNTIL MAY, I UNDERSTAND) AND THE SECOND TIME TO CONFIRM THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO KING HASSAN ON THE TELEPHONE: THE REASONS KING HASSAN HAD GIVEN FOR WISHING KING HUSSEIN TO LEAD THE DELEGATION TO LONDON WERE HIS OWN ILL-HEALTH AND 'OTHER FACTORS TOO DELICATE TO DISCUSS ON THE TELEPHONE', BY WHICH KING HUSSEIN ASSUMED HE MEANT PROBLEMS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF DLIMI.

2. I WENT OVER THE DRAFT PROGRAMME IN DETAIL WITH THE HEAD OF ROYAL PROTOCOL ON THE MORNING OF 12 MARCH: HE HAD ALSO

2. I WENT OVER THE DRAFT PROGRAMME IN LIGHT OF ROYAL PROTOCOL ON THE MORNING OF 12 MARCH: HE HAD ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON. HIKMAT CONFIRMED THAT THE PROGRAMME WAS ACCEPTABLE AS IT STOOD, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE CERTAIN DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS ON WHICH HE WOULD BE SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE THROUGH THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON: FOR EXAMPLE, WHETHER KING HUSSEIN SHOULD GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE. NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN YET AS TO WHERE KING HUSSEIN WOULD BE STAYING WHILE IN LONDON.

3. I SAW THE JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THIS MORNING FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NEW DELHI LAST NIGHT. QASEM EXPLAINED THAT, WHEN THE MOROCCANS HAD SUGGESTED TO KING HUSSEIN IN NEW DELHI THAT HE SHOULD LEAD THE DELEGATION, QASEM HAD BEEN UNEASY THAT THE MOROCCANS MIGHT NOT IN FACT HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION EVEN THOUGH BOUCETTA HAD CLAIMED TO KING HUSSEIN THAT WALID AL KHALIDI HAD BEEN SELECTED. QASEM THEREFORE DECIDED TO HAVE A FURTHER TALK TO ARAFAT BEFORE LEAVING NEW DELHI IN ORDER TO TRY TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE MATTERS STOOD. WITHOUT REVEALING TO ARAFAT THAT KING HUSSEIN WOULD NOW BE LEADING THE DELEGATION, QASEM HAD ASKED HIM WHAT HIS VIEWS WERE ON THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE. IT EMERGED FROM THIS DISCUSSION THAT THINGS WERE STILL CONFUSED. ARAFAT HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM THE MOROCCANS THAT MILHEM WAS A BRITISH NOMINEE AND, WHEN HE HAD TURNED HIM DOWN, THE MOROCCANS HAD PROPOSED MAYOR SHAKAA (WHO IS APPARENTLY ANATHEMA TO ARAFAT). AT THIS POINT ARAFAT CLAIMED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WANTED NO WEST BANK MAYORS. HE TOLD QASEM THAT ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING 4 PALESTINIANS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM: EDWARD SAID, HISHAM SHARABI, WALID AL KHALIDI OR IBRAHIM ABU LOGHUD. QASEM HAD LEFT IT THAT ARAFAT WOULD PONDER ON THESE 4 NAMES: QASEM SAID HE HOPED TO FIND OUT IN THE COURSE OF TODAY WHICH ONE ARAFAT HAD SELECTED. IT SEEMS, THEREFORE, THAT THE MOROCCANS WERE, TO SAY THE LEAST, PREMATURE IN TELLING KING HUSSEIN THAT WALID AL KHALIDI WAS TO REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS. IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DISCUSSION, ARAFAT TOLD QASEM HE HAD IT IN MIND TO CHOOSE A CANDIDATE WHO WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS. QASEM MENTIONED THAT HE HAD URGED ARAFAT TO TAKE UP THE INVITATION FOR TALKS WITH MR HURD AFTER THE DELEGATION'S VISIT: ARAFAT SAID HE WAS HOPING HE MIGHT SEE MR HURD DURING VISITS WHICH ARAFAT UNDERSTOOD MR HURD WOULD BE MAKING TO TUNISIA AND ALGERIA.

4. QASEM TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD ALSO BE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER

4. QASEM TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD ALSO BE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER THE DELEGATION IN THE COURSE OF TODAY: HE WAS STILL UNCERTAIN PRECISELY WHO WOULD BE GOING. THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD QASEM IN NEW DELHI THAT HE WOULD DEFINITELY BE GOING TO LONDON. QASEM WOULD BE TELEPHONING THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER URGING HIM TO COME. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TUNISIAN AND ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND, AS PRESIDENT CHADLI BIN JADID WOULD BE STARTING A VISIT TO TUNISIA ON 18 MARCH. QASEM THOUGHT AL MAHRI WAS LIKELY TO REPRESENT ALGERIAN AND THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE TUNISIA. AS SOON AS HE HAD THE NAMES OF THE DELEGATION, HE WOULD LET ME KNOW.

5. IN THE MEANWHILE HE URGED WITH GREAT EMPHASIS THAT:

- A. WE SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH THE PLO OR THE ARAB COUNTRIES CONCERNED ABOUT THE DELEGATION'S VISIT. HE WISHED TO BE LEFT TO SORT THINGS OUT AS BEST HE COULD:
- B. HE PARTICULARLY WANTED US TO AVOID DISCUSSION WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES UNTIL ARAFAT HAD FORMALLY GONE THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF CHOOSING HIS REPRESENTATIVE:
- C. HE HOPED WE COULD LEAVE IT TO THE JORDANIANS TO ANSWER PRESS ENQUIRIES FOR THE TIME BEING. IT HAD ALREADY BEEN REVEALED BY AN ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY IN CONNECTION WITH THE POSTPONEMENT OF PERTINI'S VISIT THAT KING HUSSEIN WOULD BE LEADING THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION IN LONDON AND THIS IN TURN HAD BEEN PICKED UP LAST NIGHT BY RADIO MONTE CARLO AND THE ISRAELI MEDIA. THE JORDANIANS HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW THEY WOULD RESPOND TO PRESS ENQUIRIES.

6. QASEM MENTIONED THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD STAY IN LONDON UNTIL 20 MARCH WHEN HE WOULD FLY TO TUNIS FOR A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE AFRO/ARAB DIALOGUE.

CCN PARA 3

.... 4 NAMES: QASEM SAID HE HOPED .... ETC

URWICK

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