

Extract from a record of a meeting between the Prime Minister and King Hussein of Jordan at 10 Downing Street at 17.30 hrs on Wednesday 28 May 1980

Saudi Arabia 3
Original on
Jordan June 1979
Visits to London by
King Hussein

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Other Middle East problems

In response to the Prime Minister's question about Saudi Arabia, King Hussein said that many Saudis realised that they had overlooked any relation to Britain. He sincerely hoped for a normalisation of relations before long. He found the mood in the country a little more relaxed. Saudis were beginning to address themselves to their internal problems, but not much had yet happened and the dangers remained. There was still hostility towards Saudi Arabia in the rest of the area. He saw little significance in Prince Fahd's New York Post interview, and had not interpreted it - as suggested by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary - as an olive branch to Egypt. The Gulf was nervous about the future. Iraq seemed to be interested in returning its relationships to a more natural plane, as they prepared to host the non-aligned summit. In the area as a whole, the communist threat helped to encourage people to stand together. In respect of Algeria he had great faith in the President's wisdom and good sense, but was not sure that he had yet consolidated his position. He was still puzzled by the grouping of Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya and Syria.

The meeting concluded at 1830 hours.

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