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DESKEY 151000Z FEB 83  
FM AMMAN 150815Z FEB 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 58 OF 14 FEB  
INFO MIDDLE EAST POSTS, MOSCOW, PARIS, UKMIS NEWYORK, WASHINGTON

MY TELNO 55: JORDAN/PLO

1. WHEN I SAW KING HUSSEIN TODAY, HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD BE ARRIVING IN LONDON ON 19 FEBRUARY AND INTENDED STAYING UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH (I AM TELEGRAPHING SEPARATELY ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS VISIT).
2. THE KING SAID HE HAD BEEN VERY FIRM WITH ARAFAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO AMMAN AND HAD LEFT HIM IN NO DOUBT THAT HE MUST EITHER MOVE FORWARD WITH THE JORDANIANS AND WITHIN THE BROAD FRAMEWORK OF THE REAGAN INITIATIVE OR FEND FOR HIMSELF. IT WAS NOW UP TO ARAFAT: THE KING VERY MUCH HOPED HE WOULD SUCCEED IN WINNING BROAD SUPPORT FROM THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT IN THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AT ALGIERS AND THOUGHT HIS CHANCES WERE REASONABLY GOOD (THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, WHOM I SAW EARLIER TODAY, THOUGHT ARAFAT WOULD BE GREATLY HELPED BY HAVING RECEIVED A PAYMENT OF US DOLLARS 22 MILLION FROM THE SAUDIS AS A RESULT OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO JEDDA).
3. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ARAFAT OBTAINED SUFFICIENT ENDORSEMENT FROM THE COUNCIL TO ENABLE HIM TO MOVE FORWARD, THE KING SEEMED TO ENVISAGE A FURTHER MEETING WITH ARAFAT IN AMMAN SOON AFTERWARDS. THE KING SAID HE WOULD THEN BE LEAVING JORDAN AROUND 6 MARCH TO ATTEND THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN INDIA. I ASKED HIM IF HE ENVISAGED A VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THE NEAR FUTURE: HE DID NOT RULE THIS OUT IF DEVELOPMENTS JUSTIFIED IT BUT CLEARLY HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND YET.
4. THE KING REITERATED HIS DETERMINATION TO SEE THINGS THROUGH TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION IF HE POSSIBLY COULD. MUCH WOULD NECESSARILY DEPEND ON THE ABILITY OF THE AMERICANS TO DELIVER, BUT HE WOULD ALSO NEED THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF HIS EUROPEAN FRIENDS. THE KING ADDED THAT, IF THE PRESENT PEACE MOVES WERE TO FAIL, HE WAS DETERMINED THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE FOR ANY LACK OF TRYING ON THE PART OF JORDAN.
5. THE KING REFERRED TO THE RECENT UNPUBLICISED VISIT TO JORDAN OF A SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY DRUTENTS. HE SAID THAT THE RUSSIANS REMAINED FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE REAGAN INITIATIVE AND

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CONTINUED TO ADVOCATE THE HOLDING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. HOWEVER THE KING THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST A HOLDING POSITION: THE RUSSIANS WERE WAITING FOR THE REAGAN INITIATIVE TO FAIL AND WOULD THEN NO DOUBT TAKE THE DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE WITH THEIR OWN PROPOSALS.

6. KING HUSSEIN ALSO REFERRED TO OUR CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES OVER THE VISIT OF THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TO LONDON AND SAID HE HOPED HE MIGHT PERHAPS BE ABLE TO BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE TO US OVER THIS.

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