

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 1500

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM AMMAN 171500Z FEB 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 68 OF 17 FEB 83

AND TO INFO ROUTINE MIDDLE EAST POSTS MOSCOW,PARIS,
UKMIS NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

JORDAN/MIDDLE EAST.

1.KING HUSSEIN LEFT AMMAN THIS MORNING SEMICOLON HE ARRIVES IN LONDON ON 19 FEBRUARY AFTER ONE DAY VISITS TO ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA.IT MAY BE USEFUL TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON SUBJECTS LIKELY TO BE UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND DURING HIS TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOURSELF.

JORDAN/PLO

2.DESPITE THE CONTRADICTORY PRONOUNCEMENTS BEING MADE DURING THE MEETING IN ALGIERS OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL,KING HUSSEIN REMAINS FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC THAT ARAFAT WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A RESOLUTION DRAFTED IN SUFFICIENTLY GENERAL TERMS TO ENABLE HIM TO WORK WITH THE JORDANIANS FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.ARAFAT HAS APPARENTLY TOLD THE KING THAT HE WILL NEED ABOUT 10 DAYS AFTER THE COUNCIL MEETING TO CONSULT OTHER ARAB STATES BEFORE HOLDING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JORDANIANS.IT SEEMS THAT KING HASSAN IS PRESSING FOR AN EARLY ARAB SUMMIT MEETING SEMICOLON KING HUSSEIN THINKS THIS MIGHT PROVE USEFUL,BUT IF IT HAPPENS IT COULD AFFECT THE TIMING OF THE NEXT MOVES.

3.BADRAN ,THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER,TOLD A SECRET SESSION ATTENDED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO THAT JORDAN WOULD IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WITHOUT THE PLO. THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION (WHO IS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN ALL BUT NAME)HAS SINCE TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT BADRAN HAD BEEN UNWISE TO CLOSE OPTIONS IN THIS WAY AND CLAIMED HE HAD TOLD HIM SO IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.WHEN MY US COLLEAGUE RECENTLY CHALLENGED THE KING ABOUT THE PRIME MINISTERS STATEMENT,SUGGESTING THAT IT HAD BEEN UNWISE BOTH AS TO TACTICS AND TIMING,KING HUSSEIN WAS DEFENSIVE AND ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW JORDAN COULD BE EXPECTED TO GO IT ALONE .WHEN VIETS SUGGESTED THAT THE SURVIVAL OF THE COUNTRY AND DYNASTY MIGHT DEPEND ON HIS DOING SO,KING HUSSEIN WENT OVER WHAT HE HAD TOLD ARAFAT AT THEIR LAST MEETING,SAYING THAT WHAT HIS PRIME MINISTER HAD TOLD THE NCC WAS TRUE 'BUT ONLY UP TO A POINT'.I THINK THE KING HAS PROBABLY NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND WHAT HE WILL DO IF ARAFAT CANNOT DELIVER THE PLO.HE MUST REALISE THAT SUPPORT FOR A JORDANIAN OPTION WITHOUT THE PLO IS AT BEST MEAGRE ON THE WEST BANK,AND PROBABLY LITTLE STRONGER ON THE EAST BANK WHERE THE DANGERS TO WHICH SUCH A MOVE WOULD EXPOSE JORDAN ARE WELL UNDERSTOOD.

/4. IT IS

CONFIDENTIAL

4. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT KING HUSSEIN IS LINKING HIS OWN ANNOUNCEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON. THE AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT, DURING KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LAST DECEMBER, HE ACCEPTED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE A DIRECT LINK. BUT JORDANIAN MINISTERS SEEM TO THINK THAT THE OPPOSITE IS THE CASE. I WOULD GUESS THAT, WHILE THE KING MAY BE PREPARED TO ANNOUNCE HIS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE BEFORE THE ISRAELIS START LEAVING LEBANON, HE WILL NOT IN FACT AGREE TO BEGIN THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES UNTIL AT LEAST PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL HAS TAKEN PLACE. IT IS ALSO HARD TO BELIEVE THAT AN ARAB TEAM COULD SIT DOWN AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE UNLESS THERE HAD BEEN AT LEAST A FREEZE ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS.

JORDAN/SOVIET UNION

5. THE UNPUBLISHED VISIT TO JORDAN LAST WEEKEND OF A SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL (KAREN BRUTENTS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE) HAS AGAIN FOCUSED JORDANIAN ATTENTION ON SOVIET INTENTIONS. KING HUSSEIN TOLD VIETS THAT BRUTENTS HAD WARNED HIM NOT TO GO ANY FURTHER IN FOLLOWING UP THE REAGAN INITIATIVE, WHICH BRUTENTS HAD DESCRIBED AS MUCH CLOSER TO CAMP DAVID THAN TO RESOLUTION 242 SEMICOLON BRUTENTS HAD ADDED THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD IN ANY CASE NEVER BE ABLE TO GET THE ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW. THE KING CLAIMS TO HAVE TOLD THE RUSSIANS THAT HE HAD GONE TOO FAR TO DRAW BACK NOW. HE ASSUMED THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD WAIT FOR THINGS TO GO WRONG AND THEN RENEW THEIR CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. BRUTENTS HAD ALSO GONE TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO EXPLAIN TO THE KING THE SOVIET DECISION TO SUPPLY SA 5S TO SYRIA. HE HAD SAID THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW A SYRIAN FINGER ON THE TRIGGER SEMICOLON THE SA 5S WOULD REMAIN UNDER TOTAL SOVIET CONTROL.

IRAN /IRAQ

7. FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE YARMOUK VOLUNTEER FORCE, KING HUSSEIN IS APPARENTLY ONCE AGAIN CONTEMPLATING SENDING JORDANIAN REGULAR TROOPS TO IRAQ SEMICOLON HE HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY FINAL DECISION AND SEEMS TO BE CONSIDERING A RANGE OF OPTIONS FROM AN ARMoured BRIGADE TO A MUCH SMALLER UNIT DRAWN FROM THE SPECIAL FORCES. MY US COLLEAGUE BELIEVES HE HAS PUT OFF ANY DECISION UNTIL AFTER THE NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN DELHI SEMICOLON IT COULD WELL BE THAT HIS MILITARY ADVISERS, WHO ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SUCH A MOVE, WILL BE ABLE TO DISSUADE HIM ENTIRELY. THE KING SEEMS EMBARRASSED THAT SUDAN AND YEMEN SHOULD BOTH HAVE TROOPS IN IRAQ SEMICOLON HE MAY ALSO BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM PRESIDENT SADDAM TO HAVE A JORDANIAN REGULAR UNIT FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE IRAQIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

8. ANY DECISION TO SEND JORDANIAN REGULAR TROOPS TO IRAQ WOULD BE HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL HERE AND COULD COME AT A TIME WHEN THE PEOPLE OF JORDAN MAY ALREADY BE DIVIDED OVER THE REAGAN INITIATIVE. IF, THEREFORE, THE QUESTION OF SENDING JORDANIAN REGULAR TROOPS TO IRAQ SHOULD ARISE IN THE KING'S TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OR YOURSELF, I RECOMMEND COUNSELLING CAUTION. A JORDANIAN MILITARY CONTRIBUTION COULD IN ANY CASE ONLY BE SYMBOLIC AND WOULD HARDLY AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR.

ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION VISIT TO LONDON.

9. ALTHOUGH THE KING HAS URGED THE PRIME MINISTER TO ACCEPT A PLO MEMBER IN THE ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION, HE IS STRONGLY OF THE VIEW THAT IT IS NOT IN THE ARAB INTEREST TO PURSUE A QUARREL WITH BRITAIN ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE PRESENT TIME. I UNDERSTAND HE HAS SPOKEN TO PRESIDENT SADDAM, KING FAHD AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS INCLUDING ARAFAT IN THIS SENSE, URGING THEM TO BRING MATTERS QUICKLY TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION AND REMINDING THEM OF THE VALUABLE ROLE WHICH BRITAIN HAS PLAYED AND CAN CONTINUE TO PLAY ON THE MIDDLE EAST BOTH IN EUROPE AND WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION. THE KING WILL THEREFORE BE ANXIOUS TO GIVE US ANY HELP HE CAN IN RESOLVING THE MATTER. HIS MINISTER OF COURT SPEAKING TO ME THIS MORNING ECHOED THE GENERAL VIEW HERE IN SAYING THAT, IF ONLY KING HUSSEIN RATHER THAN KING HASSAN HAD BEEN LEADING THE DELEGATION TO LONDON, THE PROBLEM WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO ARISE.

/JORDAN/EASTERN EUROPE

CONFIDENTIAL

JORDAN/EASTERN EUROPE

10. I WOULD NOT EXPECT ANYTHING VERY SIGNIFICANT TO EMERGE FROM KING HUSSEIN'S VISITS TO ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL IN LONDON, ALTHOUGH HE IS PROBABLY ANXIOUS THAT THE YUGOSLAVS SHOULD NOT GIVE INDISCRIMINATE SUPPORT TO THE PLO'S MORE EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS AND NO DOUBT HOPES THAT THEY WILL ALSO USE THEIR INFLUENCE AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN SUPPORT OF IRAQ.

JORDAN/EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

11. KING HUSSEIN VISITED BELGIUM AT THE END OF JANUARY SEMICOLON HE HAS SINCE RECEIVED HERE THE DUTCH AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE GERMAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE ITALIAN PRESIDENT, WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY COLOMBO, WILL BE PAYING A STATE VISIT TO JORDAN FROM 16-20 MARCH. WHILE THE KING IS NOT LOOKING FOR ANY INDEPENDENT MOVE FROM EUROPE AT PRESENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST, HE NATURALLY HOPES THAT THE EUROPEANS WILL CONTINUE TO EXPRESS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR HIS OWN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND ALSO TO PRESS FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON AND A FREEZE ON SETTLEMENTS. ONCE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY, (3 28) ? 3)99 KING TO THE EUROPEANS TO EXERT THEIR INFLUENCE BOTH WITH THE AMERICANS AND WITH THE ISRAELIS TO ENSURE A SATISFACTORY NAVNMVME.

BILATERAL RELATIONS.

12. THERE ARE NO BILATERAL PROBLEMS AT PRESENT. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO GIVE THE KING SOME INDICATION OF WHEN THE QUEEN MAY BE ABLE TO PAY THE RETURN STATE VISIT TO JORDAN FOR WHICH THE KING HAS SO LONG BEEN HOPING, THIS WOULD NATURALLY GIVE HIM THE GREATEST PLEASURE.

URWICK

STANDARD

NENAD
MED
NAD
SAD
UND
EESD
ECD
WED
RID

SECURITY D

MAED
ES & SD
ERD
ESID
CONS D
CONS EM UNIT
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

ARAB/ISRAEL DISPUTE

MR EGERTON
MR THOMAS
MR HAYES