

00 MOSCOW

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 131215Z MAR 85

TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 270 OF 13 MARCH

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NOW REPEATED TO YOU AT REQUEST OF DEPT.
WAS RECEIVED FROM CAIRO TELEGRAM NUMBER 149 OF 13 MARCH.

FOLLOWING FOR PS AND PS/MO 10 (DUTY CLERK)

RFI IMMEDIATE: AMMAN, WASHINGTON,
PRIORITY: ALGIERS, BAGHDAD, DAMASCUS, JEDDA, ROME, TEL AVIV,
TUNIS, UKMIS NEW YORK.
SAVING TO: ADEN, ABU DHABI, BAHRAIN, BEIRUT, DOHA, DUBAI, KHARTOUM,
KUWAIT, MUSCAT, RABAT, SANA'A, CG JERUSALEM.

AMMAN TELNO 90 AND WASHINGTON TELNO 868 (NOT TO ALL):
JORDAN/PLO AND THE PEACE PROCESS

SUMMARY

1. THE VIEW FROM CAIRO IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT FROM AMMAN.
THE EGYPTIANS WANT TO SEE THE JOINT JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN
DELEGATION FORMED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, THOUGH THEY ACCEPT
THAT PERES IS NOT YET READY TO NEGOTIATE. APPARENT DISAPPOINTMENT
IN WASHINGTON MAY LEAD TO GREATER EGYPTIAN PRESSURE ON BRITAIN
TO MOVE THE AMERICANS.

DETAIL

2. SEEN FROM HERE, THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE IDEAS WHICH
MUBARAK FLOATED IN HIS NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW WAS THE
SUGGESTION THAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE FOR THE AMERICANS TO
RECEIVE A JOINT JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DELEGATION. IF THIS IS
WHAT THE JORDANIANS WANTED TOO, IT SEEMS THAT KING HUSSEIN'S
MAIN COMPLAINT ABOUT MUBARAK'S INITIATIVE WAS NOT SO MUCH
THE SUBSTANCE AS THE FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN LAUNCHED WITHOUT
PRIOR CONSULTATION. SEVERAL SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS HERE HAVE
TOLD US THAT THEY CONSIDER SUCH A COMPLAINT FULLY JUSTIFIED.

3. ACCORDING TO THE HEAD OF THE PALESTINE DEPARTMENT IN THE
MFA, IF MUBARAK HAD RECEIVED ANY ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PRESIDENT
REAGAN, HE INTENDED TO PRESS HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT TO AGREE ON
THE FORMATION OF A JOINT DELEGATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
FANAWANY CLAIMED THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE:
HUSSEIN HAD ACCEPTED THAT THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION SHOULD
BE A PALESTINIAN AND ARAFAT HAD AGREED THAT MUBARAK AND
HUSSEIN SHOULD CHOOSE THE PALESTINIAN MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION
AS LONG AS HE HIMSELF WAS ALLOWED TO VETO THOSE UNACCEPTABLE
TO HIM. HE SAID THAT A NUMBER OF NAMES (HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY
THOSE OF THE FORMER WEST BANK MAYORS) HAD ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERED.

4. LIKE HM AMBASSADOR AMMAN, THE EGYPTIAN BELIEVE THAT IT IS
UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THE PLO TO MOVE FURTHER WITHOUT THE
ASSURANCE OF SOME GUESTURE BY THE AMERICANS IN RETURN. FROM
WHAT FARNAWANY AND OTHERS IN THE MFA HAVE TOLD US, I WOULD
JUDGE THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE IN MIND A COMBINATION OF THE
FORMULAE SUGGESTED IN A AND B OF PARAGRAPH 9 OF AMMAN TUR.
THEY DO, HOWEVER, RECOGNISE THAT TIMING IS A PROBLEM. ON THE
ONE HAND, THEY WANT TO MOVE FAST SO THAT THE PLO HAVE LESS
CHANCE TO RUN OUT ON THE AGREEMENT WITH HUSSEIN AND OTHERS, SUCH
AS THE SYRIANS, HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITY TO EMPLOY WRECKING TACTICS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ACCEPT THAT PERES IS NOT YET IN A POSITION
TO ENTER INTO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. MOHAMMED ABDELLAH, THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,
TOLD ME ON 12 MARCH THAT THE MAIN MESSAGE HE BROUGHT BACK FROM
HIS MEETING WITH PERES IN MUCHAREST LAST MONTH WAS THAT HE
WOULD NOT BE READY TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY UNTIL HE HAD SORTED
OUT THE ECONOMY AND STRENGTHENED HIS OWN POLITICAL POSITION.

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OUT THE ECONOMY AND STRENGTHENED HIS OWN POLITICAL POSITION.
HE HAD TOLD ABDELLAH THAT THIS WOULD TAKE 6 OR 7 MONTHS.

5. IF THE PRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN ARE ACCURATE (MIPT), THEN
MUBARAK WILL BE LEAVING WASHINGTON A DISAPPOINTED MAN. IN
THE ABSENCE OF THE CLEAR AMERICAN ACCEPTANCE OF HIS PROPOSALS,
FOR WHICH HE HAD HOPED (HOWEVER NAIVELY), HE WILL BE ANXIOUS
NOT TO RETURN TO CAIRO EMPTY HANDED. HE SEEMS LIKELY THEREFORE
NOT ONLY TO URGE THE PRIME MINISTER TO WORK ON PRESIDENT REAGAN
BUT ALSO TO PRESS FOR PUBLIC UK AND EC SUPPORT FOR THE 11 FEBGUARY
AGREEMENT AND HIS OWN IDEAS FOR CARRYING THE PEACE PROCESS
FORWARD (THE LOCAL PRESS CONTINUE TO REPORT THAT HE WILL BE
STOPPING BRIEFLY, ON HIS WAY HOME FROM LONDON, TO BRIEF CRAXI
IN VENICE).

FCO PSE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES.

WESTON