

GRS230
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FM AMMAN

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELNO 10

OF 081135Z JANUARY 86

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON TEL AVIV, JERUSALEM, CAIRO
INFO ROUTINE DAMASCUS AND RIYADH.

MY TELS NOS 6 AND 7: THE PEACE PROCESS

1. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE JORDANIANS WILL NOT HAVE FURTHER CONTACT WITH ARAFAT BEFORE KING HUSSEIN SEES THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER TOLD ME TODAY THAT ARAFAT HAD BEEN IN TOUCH ON 7 JANUARY TO SAY THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE KING WAS LEAVING FOR LONDON. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT HE SHOULD VISIT AMMAN, TOGETHER WITH ALL THE PLO LEADERSHIP, WHEN THE KING RETURNED. HE ASSERTED THAT HE REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE 11 FEBRUARY JORDAN/PLO AGREEMENT. RIFAI SAID THAT THE JORDANIANS HAD NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO LET ARAFAT COME. ARAFAT HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THEY WISHED TO SEE A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE KING'S QUESTIONS BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER THEY WISHED TO SEE ARAFAT AGAIN.

3. RIFAI WENT ON TO TELL ME THAT THE KING HAD REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT HE COULD NO LONGER DEAL WITH ARAFAT AND THAT HE MUST FIND AN ALTERNATIVE. RIFAI HINTED THAT THE JORDANIAN TACTIC MIGHT BE TO TRY TO SPLIT ARAFAT FROM THE REST OF THE PLO.

COMMENT

4. I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT THE KING HAS YET REACHED A FIRM CONCLUSION ON FUTURE RELATIONS WITH ARAFAT. THERE MAY BE MORE OF RIFAI THAN THE KING IN THE ABOVE COMMENTS. BUT AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 6 OF MY TEL NO 7 THIS IS VERY MUCH A CURRENT ISSUE HERE.

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