

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMMAN

TO DESKBY 310930Z FCO

TELNO 052

OF 310745Z JANUARY 86

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, JERUSALEM

YOUR TELNO 157 AND WASHINGTON TEL NO 233: ARAB/ISRAEL

1. I TOLD THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER THIS MORNING THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. WE HAD EXPLAINED OUR CONCERN AT THE PRESENT IMPASSE. BUT IT APPEARED THAT THERE WAS NO FLEXIBILITY IN THE U.S. POSITION ON SELF-DETERMINATION. WE KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT THE AMERICANS WERE REFLECTING ON THE POSITION AND WERE CONSIDERING WHETHER THERE WAS ANY PROSPECT OF HELPING WITH IDEAS OF A DIFFERENT KIND (I DID NOT OF COURSE GIVE ANY INDICATION OF THE IDEA MURPHY IS CONSIDERING - PARA 3 OF WASHINGTON TUR).
2. RIFA'AT WAS GRATEFUL AND SAID HE WOULD PASS THIS ON TO THE KING. HE STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO IMPROVEMENT OR CHANGE IN THE SITUATION SINCE THE CONVERSATION REPORTED IN MY TEL NO 157. HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT EVEN IF THE U.S. DID MOVE ON SELF-DETERMINATION ARAFAT WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS. "THAT IDIOT", HE CONTINUED, "IS STILL SITTING HERE SAYING HE IS WAITING FOR OUR REPLY ON SELF-DETERMINATION".
3. RIFA'AT ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT ARAFAT WAS PACKING HIS BAGS BUT HE HOPED HE WOULD SOON.
4. PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE MUST OF COURSE BE READ IN THE LIGHT OF MY EARLIER ASSESSMENT (MY TELNO 48) THAT RIFA'AT'S AIM IS TO BREAK WITH THE PLO.
5. WASHINGTON PLEASE PASS TO FERGUSSON.

COLES

MIDDLE EAST

LIMITED

NENAD

MED

NAD

SOVIET D

PLANNING STAFF

UND

ECD(E) (POCO UNIT)

NEWS D

INFO D

PUSD

SED

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DEFENCE D

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PS/MR RENTON

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MR LONG

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