

GRS 150

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FM WASHINGTON

TO DESKBY 310900Z FCO

TELNO 233

OF 310044Z JANUARY 86

INFO DESKBY 310600Z AMMAN

INFO PRIORITY TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, JERUSALEM

YOUR TELNO 157: ARAB/ISRAEL.

1. FERGUSSON SPOKE TO MURPHY ON THE TELEPHONE AT 1900 HOURS LOCAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.
2. MURPHY SAID THAT THE LATEST U S CONTACTS WITH KING HUSSEIN (WHICH, HOWEVER, HAD TAKEN PLACE LESS RECENTLY THAN MR COLES' MEETING) HAD NOT GIVEN THEM THE IMPRESSION THAT A RUPTURE WAS IMMINENT. HE AGREED THAT A PUBLIC RUPTURE WOULD CREATE A VERY UNDESIRABLE SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, HE EMPHASISED THAT THERE WAS NO GIVE IN THE U S POSITION OVER SELF-DETERMINATION. THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO AGREE IN ADVANCE TO COMMITMENTS OVER WHAT MUST BE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, MURPHY WAS FOLLOWING UP A SUGGESTION FROM 'AN ASSOCIATE OF ARAFAT'S' WHO HAD INDICATED THAT A WAY ROUND THE IMPASSE MIGHT LIE IN BROADENING THE TERMS OF THE INVITATION TO THE CONFERENCE TO GO BEYOND THE UNSCR 242 TO ADDRESS, FOR INSTANCE THE 'LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS'. THERE HAD BEEN PREVIOUS FORMULAE WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL (E.G. DURING CAMP DAVID), AND THERE MIGHT BE SCOPE FOR REFORMULATIONS.
4. MURPHY WAS PUTTING IDEAS ON THESE LINES TO SHULTZ. HE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD BE APPROVED, AND HE EXPECTED NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO REACH AMMAN TOMORROW MORNING. HOW HELPFUL THEY WOULD BE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TEL.

WRIGHT

MIDDLE EAST

LIMITED

NENAD

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SOVIET D

PLANNING STAFF

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ECD(E) (POCO UNIT)

NEWS D

INFO D

PUSD

SED

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DEFENCE D

PS

PS/MR RENTON

PS/PUS

MR FERGUSSON

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