

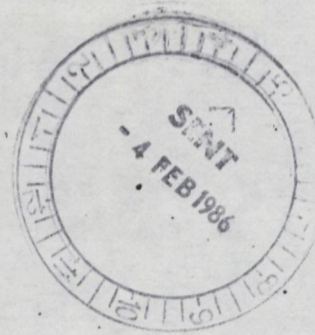
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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 058

OF 040910Z FEBRUARY 86

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, JERUSALEM

MY TELNO 55: ARAB/ISRAEL

MILES

SUMMARY

1. THE PLO ARE MAKING A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO DRAFT A STATEMENT ON 242 ETC. BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE YET THAT IT WILL GO FAR ENOUGH TO MEET JORDANIAN/US REQUIREMENTS.

DETAIL

2. THE CONTACT BETWEEN ARAFAT'S POLITICAL ADVISER HANI AL HASSAN, AND THE JORDANIAN MINISTER OF COURT, REPORTED IN PARA 8 OF MY TUR, HAS LED TO A NEW ATTEMPT BY THE PLO TO DRAFT A TEXT COVERING JORDAN'S REQUIREMENTS. KING HUSSEIN INSTRUCTED THE MINISTER OF COURT NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE DRAFTING, INSISTING THAT IF THE PLO HAD SOMETHING TO SAY AFTER ALL THIS DELAY THEY MUST PRODUCE A TEXT THEMSELVES.

3. BY 3 FEBRUARY HANI AL HASSAN HAD PRODUCED A DRAFT WHICH, ACCORDING TO US SOURNBFE IS ESSENTIALLY A REFINED VERSION OF KING HUSSEIN'S STATEMENT OF 29 MAY ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN ON BEHALF OF JORDAN AND THE PLO. THE AMERICANS HAVE NOT SEEN THE DRAFT, INSISTING THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE A TEXT ONLY FROM JORDAN, NOT THE PLO. BUT THEY BELIEVE IT:

- (A) REITERATES THE PLO'S VIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, WITHOUT REQUIRING US ENDORSEMENT
- (B) STATES THE PLO'S AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BASIS OF PERTINENT UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338

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(C) CONTAINS A COMMITMENT ON THE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE.

4. IF THIS DESCRIPTION IS ACCURATE THE TEXT FALLS A GOOD WAY SHORT OF JORDANIAN/AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS. THE "PERTINENT RESOLUTIONS" DEVICE IS A FAMILIAR PIECE OF PLO EVASION. THE WORDING ON CESSATION OF VIOLENCE MAY ALSO BE UNSATISFACTORY SINCE AT ONE STAGE IN THE DRAFTING THE REFERENCE WAS ONLY TO AN UNDERTAKING TO CEASE VIOLENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARAFAT'S CAIRO DECLARATION (SEMI COLON) THE PLO ARE NOW THOUGHT TO BE CONSIDERING PROPOSING A TOTAL MORATORIUM ON VIOLENCE FOR THE DURATION OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. DESPITE THE WEAKNESSES DESCRIBED, MY US COLLEAGUE DRAWS SOME COMFORT BOTH FROM THE FACT THAT AN APPARENTLY SERIOUS PLO DRAFTING EFFORT IS NOW AT LAST UNDER WAY AND FROM HIS INFORMATION THAT NOT ONLY ARAFAT BUT ABU JIHAD AND ABU IYAD ARE BELIEVED TO SUPPORT THE TEXT WHICH HAS EMERGED. ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT ARAFAT HAS ENOUGH SUPPORT TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE TEXT TO THE KING AND IS SAID TO BE ARGUING AT THE VERY LEAST THAT HE WILL NEED TWO OR THREE WEEKS TO OBTAIN FULL ACCEPTANCE FROM THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

6. I DO NOT YET KNOW ENOUGH OF THE FACTS TO JUDGE WHETHER THIS IS A FURTHER SLIPPERY ATTEMPT BY ARAFAT TO ESCAPE FROM JORDAN WITHOUT A SERIOUS COMMITMENT. BUT IT MIGHT BE.

7. PLEASE PROTECT THE ABOVE WHICH COMES IN CONFIDENCE FROM THE U.S. AMBASSADOR.

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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 64 FEBRUARY 86

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, BONN, ROME

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INFO ROUTINE TUNIS, ALGIERS, UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON,

INFO ROUTINE DAMASCUS

YOUR TELNO 80 (NOT TO DAMASCUS): ARAB/ISRAEL:
ACTIVITY BY THE TWELVE

1. I CANNOT CONFIDENTLY ASSESS JORDANIAN REACTION TO THE PROPOSALS IN YOUR PARA 3 UNTIL THE PRESENT ROUND OF JORDAN/PLO CONTACTS HAS ENDED. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW THEY END.

2. AS YOU KNOW FROM MY EARLIER TELEGRAMS, IN MY JUDGEMENT THE MOST LIKELY COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE SHORT-TERM IS:-

(A) THE PRESENT ROUND WILL END WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 AND 338:

(B) JORDAN WILL SEEK TO STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SYRIA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES: THERE MAY BE ANOTHER HUSSEIN/ASAD SUMMIT:

(C) HUSSEIN WILL MAKE A MAJOR SPEECH TO THE NATION EXPLAINING WHY HIS EFFORTS HAVE RUN INTO AN IMPASSE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW FAR HE WILL PUT THE BLAME ON THE UNITED STATES OR THE PALESTINIANS.

3. I DOUBT WHETHER THE EC CAN SENSIBLY CONTEMPLATE THE USEFULNESS OF AN INITIATIVE UNTIL AT LEAST SOME OF THESE EVENTS HAVE RUN THEIR COURSE. I AGREE WITH YOUR VIEW THAT THE IDEA OF A DEMARCHE TO THE PLO ABOUT 242 AND 338 HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. IT MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME USEFULNESS A WEEK AGO. BUT I THINK THAT EVEN FRIENDLY JORDAN WOULD REGARD A EUROPEAN INITIATIVE OF THIS KIND LATER THIS MONTH AS BIZARRE, UNLESS WE CAN LINK IT TO A NEW AND SUBSTANTIAL IDEA WHICH HAS SOME CHANCE OF MOVING THE PLO.

4. AS REGARDS MUBARAK'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONTACT GROUP, I ADVISE CAUTION. THE JORDANIANS BY NO MEANS ALWAYS WELCOME EGYPTIAN INITIATIVES ON THE PEACE PROCESS. IN THE PAST THE EGYPTIANS HAVE SOMETIMES FAILED TO CONSULT THEM IN ADVANCE AND, BY JORDANIAN LIGHTS, HAVE GOT THINGS WRONG. SO FAR THEY HAVE SHOWN NO INTEREST IN MUBARAK'S LATEST IDEA WHICH THEY PROBABLY REGARD AS OUT OF KILTER WITH THE SITUATION HERE.

/ AGAIN .

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AGAIN DEPENDING ON WHAT HAPPENS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, JORDAN MIGHT WELCOME THE MERE FACT OF A EUROPEAN CONTACT GROUP AS EVIDENCE, ALBEIT SLIGHT, THAT PEACE PROCESS ACTIVITY HAS NOT ENTIRELY ENDED. BUT THE PROPOSAL, IF PUT TO THEM, WOULD CERTAINLY EXCITE EXPECTATIONS THAT THE CONTACT GROUP WOULD BRING WITH IT A SUBSTANTIAL PROPOSAL TO LAUNCH PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD NOT JUST MOUTH GENERALITIES ABOUT EUROPEAN INTEREST IN THE AREA.

5. I DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE LUXEMBOURG IDEA ON SECURITY GUARANTEES TO ASSESS JORDANIAN REACTION TO IT. BUT MY GUESS IS THAT THEY WOULD FIND IT ODD IF THAT QUESTION WERE RAISED NOW WHEN ALL THEIR EFFORT HAS BEEN FOCUSED, UNSUCCESSFULLY, ON GETTING THE PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

4. THE SITUATION MAY BE CLEARER BY THE TIME EC FOREIGN MINISTERS NEXT MEET IN POLITICAL CO-OPERATION. MEANWHILE I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST FIRM DECISIONS OR EVEN RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE THEN. GIVEN JORDAN'S CENTRAL ROLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR UPSETTING THE JORDANIANS IF WE MISCONSTRUE THE SITUATION, I ALSO SUGGEST THAT I BE INSTRUCTED BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION TO SOUND THEM OUT ON WHETHER THEY WOULD WELCOME ANY SPECIFIC FORM OF EC ACTIVITY.

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