

ADVANCE COPIES

15 A

MIDDLE EAST

PS (6)

PS/MR RENTON

PS/PUS

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR FERGUSSON

SIR D. MIRAS.

HD/NENAD

HD/MED

NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

CABINET OFFICE DIO



PUSD (2)

NEWS DEPT

RESIDENT CLERK

1.10.85

CONFIDENTIAL

FM AMMAN

TO DESKRY 081100Z FCO

TELNO 70

OF 080930Z FEBRUARY 86

INFO IMMEDIATE ALL MIDDLE EAST POSTS, WASHINGTON.

JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN TALKS

1. YASSER ARAFAT LEFT AMMAN ON THE EVENING OF 7 FEBRUARY HAVING FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE JORDANIANS. THIS FOLLOWED A MEETING OF PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ON 6 JANUARY AND FURTHER MEETINGS BETWEEN ARAFAT AND THE PRIME MINISTER, ZAID RIFAI.

2. RIFAI TOLD A MEMBER OF MY STAFF ON 7 FEBRUARY THAT ARAFAT HAD CONTINUED TO EVADE THE MAIN ISSUE AND HAD PUT FORWARD VARIOUS UNACCEPTABLE COUNTER-PROPOSALS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT EVEN IF THE AMERICANS HAD GIVEN WAY ON SELF-DETERMINATION, ARAFAT WOULD HAVE MADE OTHER DEMANDS. THE TRUTH WAS THAT ARAFAT HAD NOT WANTED TO REACH AGREEMENT.

3. RIFAI SAID THAT HE WOULD TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS ON 9 FEBRUARY AND HOPED THAT PRESIDENT ASAD WOULD VISIT JORDAN VERY SOON THEREAFTER.

COLES