

GRS 130

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FM JERUSALEM

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 48

OF 251330Z FEBRUARY 86

INFO IMMEDIATE AMMAN

INFO PRIORITY CAIRO, TEL AVIV, WASHINGTON, DAMASCUS, TUNIS, UKMIS

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK

MS.

MY TELNO 45: REACTIONS TO KING HUSSEIN'S SPEECH

1. PUBLIC COMMENT AGAINST THE KING'S SPEECH IS HARDENING. IN PRIVATE, CRITICISM IS BECOMING SHARPER, EVEN FROM THE MANY BRANDED BY PLO SUPPORTERS AS CREATURES OF JORDAN. BUT IT IS DIRECTED MORE AT THE KING'S ADVISERS (FOR MISREADING THE SITUATION HERE) THAN THE KING HIMSELF.

2. FAR FROM UNDERMINING SUPPORT FOR ARAFAT, THE SPEECH SEEMS TO BE SOLIDIFYING IT. THERE ARE EVEN SIGNS POINTING TOWARDS A POSSIBLE LOCAL FATAH / DFLP / PFLP RAPPROCHEMENT. THERE ARE CALLS FROM ALL SIDES FOR RESUMPTION OF THE JORDAN / PLO DIALOGUE = THE JOINT AGREEMENT AND JOINT ACTION, ARE SEEN AS THE ONLY SOUND BASIS FOR ADVANCING THE PEACE PROCESS. MUCH HOPE IS PLACED ON MEDIATION BY ARAB LEADERS, MUBARAK IN PARTICULAR.

3. I SHALL SEND A FULLER ASSESSMENT WHEN I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE MY PRIVATE SOUNDINGS FURTHER.

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