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FM AMMAN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 125

OF 061010Z MARCH 90

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

INFO PRIORITY TUNIS, WASHINGTON, PARIS, GULF POSTS, RIYADH

MIPT: AUDIENCE WITH KING HUSSEIN: PEACE PROCESS

## SUMMARY

1. KING HUSSEIN REMAINS SCEPTICAL ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS AND CONCERNED ABOUT US ATTITUDES.

## DETAIL

2. I WENT THROUGH THE MAIN POINTS ARISING FROM YOUR RECENT MEETING WITH BASSAM ABU SHARIF (YOUR TELNO 57 TO TUNIS).

THE KING AGREED THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN MEETING NOW LOOKED RATHER BETTER. HE ALSO ACCEPTED THE POINT (WHICH HAD BEEN MADE TO MR FULLER AND ME BY HIS POLITICAL ADVISER SOME DAYS AGO) THAT THE FACT THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT ALL COULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES NOT INTENDED BY SHAMIR. THE KING SPOKE HIGHLY OF BAS BUT REITERATED HIS CONCERN THAT, GIVEN SHAMIR'S OBDURATE STANCE, THE PLO MODERATES COULD FIND THEMSELVES PUSHED ASIDE BY THE RADICALS IF THE DIALOGUE PRODUCED NO RESULTS. HE DETECTED NO GIVE IN SHAMIR'S POSITION OVER TERRITORY FOR PEACE AND OVER LINKAGE BETWEEN THE ELECTIONS PROPOSAL AND THE FINAL SETTLEMENT.

3. I REFERRED TO RECENT REMARKS BY RABIN AND BY THE ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF, THE FORMER REJECTING THE QUOTE JORDAN IS PALESTINE UNQUOTE ARGUMENT AND POINTING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF JORDAN'S FUTURE ROLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS, AND THE LATTER DENYING THAT ISRAELI POLICY THREATENED JORDAN. THE KING SAID THAT HE FOUND THESE REMARKS SOMEWHAT REASSURING. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF ISRAELIS WHO TOOK A DIFFERENT VIEW.

4. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER OUR POSITION AS REGARDS AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (YOUR TELNO 344 TO WASHINGTON). THE KING SAID THAT HE WAS VERY GLAD TO HEAR THAT OUR POSITION OVER THE IC HAD NOT CHANGED. AT THIS POINT, HE REVERTED TO HIS CONCERN



ABOUT WHAT HE SEES AS AN UNHELPFUL SHIFT IN THE AMERICAN POSITION TOWARDS SCR 242 (MY TELNO 105: NOT TO ALL). I AM REPORTING ON THIS SEPARATELY.

5. I ALSO PASSED ON TO THE KING THE INFORMATION GLEANED FROM HM REPRESENTATIVES AT TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM ABOUT ILLEGAL RESIDENTS ON THE WEST BANK (MY TELNO 1 TO TEL AVIV). THE KING SAID THAT HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL. THE CROWN PRINCE COMMENTED THAT THE FIGURE OF 120,000 ILLEGALS WAS CLEARLY AN EXAGGERATION. HE WAS STILL UNSURE ABOUT THE NATIONALITY OF SUCH RESIDENTS.

6. AT THE END OF OUR DISCUS89, 9, 5#3 D3--:3 049:3'', I REMINDED THE KING OF MRS THATCHER'S RECENT COMMENT (IN HER ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS) THAT WE WERE VERY ANXIOUS TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE ARAB/ISRAEL PROBLEM. WE REMAINED OF THE VIEW THAT JORDAN HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IF NOT IMMEDIATELY, THEN IN THE FUTURE. THE KING COULD THEREFORE BE SURE THAT HIS IDEAS WOULD BE LISTENED TO VERY CAREFULLY AT CHEQUERS. HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS GREATLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MEETING. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT HE WOULD HAVE ANY NEW IDEAS TO PUT FORWARD.

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