

GR 330
SECRET
DEDIP
UK EYES ALPHA
FM AMMAN 101010Z FEB 83
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 50 OF 10 FEB

SECRET

McColes
No 10 Downing St

MY TELNO 48: JORDAN/PLO

1. THE US AMBASSADOR SAW KING HUSSEIN SHORTLY AFTER ARAFAT LEFT AMMAN ON 9 FEBRUARY. THE KING CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD ONLY SEEN ARAFAT ONCE DURING HIS LATEST VISIT SEMICLN THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER HAD ALSO BEEN PRESENT. THE KING CLAIMED TO HAVE SPOKEN VERY TOUGHLY WITH NO HOLDS BARRED TO ARAFAT AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT, AS FAR AS JORDAN WAS CONCERNED, THE END OF THE ROAD HAD BEEN REACHED. EITHER THE PLO AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE JORDANIANS IN PURSUIT OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OR THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT JORDANIAN/PLO ACTION WAS AT AN END.
2. ARAFAT HAD GIVEN THE KING HIS SPECIFIC AGREEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
 - A. THE FORMATION OF A JOINT JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM IN WHICH THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY PLO MEMBERS SEMICLN
 - B. THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE BASIS OF THE REAGAN INITIATIVE SEMICLN
 - C. ARAFAT WOULD TELL THE OTHER ARAB LEADERS THAT HE HAD GIVEN THESE NEGOTIATIONS HIS BACKING SEMICLN
 - D. HE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY PUBLIC OBJECTION TO THE FACT THAT PLO MEMBERS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEGOTIATING TEAM.
3. WHEN VIETS ASKED KING HUSSEIN WHETHER HE THOUGHT ARAFAT WOULD DELIVER, THE KING HAD REPLIED, "IT'S UP TO HIM: THIS IS THE DEAL." THE KING SAID IT WAS HIS FIRM INTENTION TO MOVE FORWARD SHORTLY AFTER THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE.
4. KING HUSSEIN TOLD VIETS THAT ARAFAT WAS "PARANOID" ABOUT THE DANGER OF LEAKS AND, IN ORDER TO SECURE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION FOR WHAT THE KING HAD TOLD HIM, VIETS HAD ADDRESSED HIS TELEGRAM PERSONALLY TO MR SHULTZ AND HAD NOT REPEATED IT TO ANY US POSTS. HE PARTICULARLY ASKED THAT WE SHOULD ACCORD WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME SIMILAR PROTECTION.
5. VIETS ALSO READ OVER TO ME THIS MORNING THE LATEST WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT OF THE LINE-UP WITHIN THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL. ARAFAT HAD ADDED 45 NEW MEMBERS TO THE PNC, WHICH NOW NUMBERED 355. THE AMERICANS CALCULATED THAT HE WOULD COUNT ON A MAJORITY OF 100 WITHIN THIS BODY FOR PURSUING HIS POLICIES. THEY ARE DOUBTFUL IF THE RADICAL GROUPS WILL DEFECT EN MASSE AND BELIEVE THAT ONLY THOSE FEW GROUPS DIRECTLY DEPENDENT ON SYRIAN SUPPORT WOULD DO SO. THEY BELIEVED THE REMAINING RADICALS WERE MORE LIKELY TO TEMPORISE.

URWICK

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