

Approved For Release 2007/03/28 : CIA-RDP79T00975A030800010094-6

~~Top Secret~~

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Monday 25 September 1978

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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State Dept. review completed

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JORDAN: Hussein Buying Time

[] Jordan's King Hussein is trying to pick his way through the dilemma into which he believes he was thrust by the Camp David framework for a Middle Eastern peace, which gave him a key role in the negotiating process. At the same time, he is being pressed by members of the Steadfastness Front, who are eager to bring him into their camp. Perhaps to buy time and to test the waters in Jordan, Hussein has set up a special working group on summit issues.

[] In his news conference on Saturday, Hussein clearly indicated that he found the results of Camp David wanting because they contain no assurance of eventual Arab sovereignty, Palestinian self-determination, or total Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories. The Jordanian King stressed that, before he could become a participant in any negotiations, he would have to know their end product. The negotiations themselves, in his view, should focus on mechanisms and timing.

[] Hussein said he was not consulted on the Camp David provisions applying to Jordan and thus is not bound by the summit's outcome. He said he is examining the agreements closely because many statements about the summit accords were "contradictory" and others were "discouraging." Hussein left the door open, however, saying that he would maintain a dialogue with the US and other Arab states and not act rashly or hastily.

[] The text of the news conference tended to obscure Hussein's views on Egyptian President Sadat's expressed willingness to negotiate West Bank issues without Hussein's participation. The US Ambassador in Amman reports that Hussein seemed to take "special umbrage" at Sadat's statements. []

ARAB STATES: Rejectionist Summit

[] The communique issued on Saturday following the summit in Syria of hardline Arab states announced that the members of the Steadfastness Front are breaking off political and economic relations with Egypt. The decision will have little immediate effect on Egypt.

[] The Front--made up of Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, and the Palestine Liberation Organization--formed a Higher Command composed of its leaders, which will meet every six months, and a Political Committee composed of the five foreign ministers, which will meet every three months. A single military command was also formed, and the Front pledged to assist any member, with armed force if necessary, in the event of an attack--a clear reference to possible Egyptian military action against Libya.

[] Egypt had already broken diplomatic relations with the hardline states following their first summit last December, although it has since established interests sections in Damascus and Algiers. On the economic side, it is not clear whether Egyptian workers employed in the hardline states--particularly the more than 100,000 in Libya--will be forced to return to Egypt.

[] The US Embassy in Cairo has described the mood there as one of support for the Camp David accords, without the euphoria that accompanied President Sadat's return from Jerusalem last November. An Egyptian labor leader told an Embassy official that Egyptian labor would endorse even a separate agreement so long as it appeared likely to end economic stagnation. In an apparent effort to head off incidents, authorities have delayed for one week the opening of the fall semester at Egyptian universities.

[] We have no information on a Time-Life News Service story that Saudi Arabia has decided to cut off military aid to Egypt while continuing to provide nonmilitary aid. []

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