

Jordan

FBIS 37

JORDAN REJECTS HAWK MISSILE DEAL

NC181225 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AMMAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC AT 1200 GMT 18 SEPTEMBER CARRIES A STATEMENT BY THE OFFICIAL JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN SAYING THAT PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER ZAYD AR-RIFA I LAST NIGHT RECEIVED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN, WHO INFORMED HIM THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS APPROVED JORDAN S REQUEST TO BUY 14 HAWK MISSILE BATTERIES.

THE STATEMENT GOES ON TO SAY THAT "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS EXALTED MAJESTY THE KING, THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT S REGRET THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT PREPARED TO SIGN THE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED HAWK MISSILES UNDER THE CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS CONTAINED IN PRESIDENT FORD S LETTER TO CONGRESS, WHICH JORDAN CONSIDERS UNIQUE AND AFFECTING ITS NATIONAL DIGNITY." FURTHER DETAILS AS AVAILABLE.

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FBIS 39 (SUB FOR 37)

JORDAN REJECTS U.S. HAWK MISSILES

NC181240 AMMAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC 1200 GMT 18 SEP 75 NC
(18 SEPTEMBER STATEMENT BY JORDANIAN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN--READ BY ANNOUNCER)

(TEXT) PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER ZAYD AR-RIFA I RECEIVED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN LATE LAST NIGHT. THE AMBASSADOR INFORMED HIM THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS HAD APPROVED JORDAN'S REQUEST TO PURCHASE 14 ADVANCED HAWK MISSILE BATTERIES, FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT FORD ADDRESSED TO CONGRESS INFORMING IT THAT THESE MISSILE BATTERIES WOULD BEGIN TO ARRIVE IN JORDAN IN LATE 1976 AND THEIR DELIVERY WOULD CONTINUE IN INSTALLMENTS UNTIL 1979. PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ALSO INCLUDED PLEDGES THAT THE MISSILES WOULD BE USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFENDING JORDAN AND THAT THEIR DISTRIBUTION IN THE KINGDOM WOULD REFLECT THEIR DEFENSIVE NATURE, FOR THEY WOULD BE USED TO DEFEND THE AMMAN AND AZ-ZARQA AREAS, AIRPORTS, AIR BASES, RADAR STATIONS AND OTHER VITAL AREAS IN JORDAN. IN HIS LETTER TO CONGRESS PRESIDENT FORD ADDED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AGREE TO THESE BATTERIES BEING PART OF ANY BILATERAL OR COLLECTIVE ARAB MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT ITS PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL, AND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD WATCH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL THIS, AND WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT, FOR ITSELF AND FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS, TO TAKE THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO HALT THE EXPORT OF THE MISSILES.

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS MAJESTY KING HUSAYN, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS INFORMED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT'S REGRET THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT PREPARED TO SIGN THE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED HAWK MISSILES UNDER THE CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS CONTAINED IN PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO CONGRESS, WHICH JORDAN CONSIDERS UNIQUE AND AFFECTING ITS NATIONAL DIGNITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR JORDAN'S FIRM POLICY: NAMELY, IT CONSIDERS THAT ANY ARMS ARRIVING IN JORDAN ARE JORDANIAN ARMS AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE IN THE KINGDOM. ADDED TO ALL THIS, THE DATES OF THE DELIVERY OF THE HAWK MISSILES, AS ESTABLISHED IN PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER, ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH JORDAN'S NEEDS. JORDAN INSISTS ON IMPORTING THEM AS SOON AS THE TRAINING OF OUR ARMED FORCES IN THEIR USE IS COMPLETED AND THEIR ABILITY TO ABSORB THEM IS ESTABLISHED, SO THAT THEY CAN DEFEND THE KINGDOM'S AIRSPACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITHOUT THERE BEING ANY OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED: SHOULD THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOT BE PREPARED TO CONCLUDE A SALES AGREEMENT ON THESE TERMS THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL WITHDRAW ITS REQUEST TO PURCHASE THE MISSILES AND WILL SEEK TO INSURE THE KINGDOM'S AIR DEFENSE NEEDS, AND IN THE SPHERE IN WHICH THE HAWK MISSILES CAN COVER, FROM ANY OTHER SOURCES, AS HIS MAJESTY THE KING HAS ALREADY DECLARED, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES BY WHICH JORDAN HAS BEEN ABIDING SO FAR IN INSURING ITS ARMS.