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TO THE WHITE HOUSE

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S E C R E T SENSITIVE

MARCH 3, 1974

HAKTD 36

FOR SCOWCROFT FROM THE SECRETARY

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT:
I MET WITH KING HUSSEIN FOR SEVERAL HOURS LAST NIGHT,
AND FOR THREE HOURS AGAIN THIS MORNING. THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS
BOTH DAYS WAS ON THE POLICY THE KING SHOULD FOLLOW WITH
REGARD TO THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER.

HUSSEIN HAS, FOR SOME MONTHS, BEEN MEETING QUIETLY WITH THE
ISRAELIS TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK-- WHICH ISRAEL
NOW HOLDS --, BUT HAS BEEN TOTALLY UNSUCCESSFUL AT ARRIVING AT ANY
COMPROMISES THAT WERE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE.

AS A RESULT OF THIS TOTAL IMMOBILITY, HUSSEIN IS COMING UNDER
INCREASING PRESSURE FROM THE PALESTINIANS -- AS WELL AS SOME ARAB
GOVERNMENTS -- TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN
GOVERNMENT IN EXILE WHICH WOULD BECOME THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ARABS NOW LIVING ON THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK. THE
GOVERNMENT IN EXILE WOULD THEN BE THE ENTITY WITH WHICH THE ISRAELIS
WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO NEGOTIATE OVER THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK.

WHILE HUSSEIN WOULD OBVIOUSLY RATHER NOT ACCEPT A GOVERNMENT
IN EXILE, SINCE THIS WOULD EFFECTIVELY END ANY JORDANIAN CLAIM
TO THE WEST BANK, PALESTINIAN PRESSURES ARE GROWING DAILY AND HUSSEIN
FEELS THAT SUCH A MOVE MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT HIMSELF
FROM EVENTUAL OVERTHROW BY THE LARGE DISSATISFIED AND FRUSTRATED
PALESTINIAN EXILE GROUP LIVING IN JORDAN PROPER.

I ASSURED HUSSEIN THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DIMINUTION OF
AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR HIM, AND UNDERSCORED OUR DESIRE TO PROCEED
WITH HIM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT STRATEGY. I ADVISED HIM
TO MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATION WITH THE

***** W H S K C O M M E N T *****

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SEC. FILE

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MORI/CDF per C03344205

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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ISRAELIS, IN THE HOPE THAT ONCE ISRAEL HAS PUT TOGETHER A WORKABLE GOVERNMENT MAY BE MORE FORTHCOMING.

HUSSEIN AGREED TO FORESTALL FOR NOW ANY MOVES TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, AND TO MAKE ANOTHER TRY AT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS.

WE ALSO DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE FUTURE OF OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; I WILL WANT TO TALK TO YOU PERSONALLY ABOUT THIS AFTER MY RETURN.

HUSSEIN IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS MARCH 12 MEETING WITH YOU IN WASHINGTON, AND ASKED THAT I TELL YOU HOW MUCH HE LOOKS FORWARD TO TALKING WITH YOU.

WE ARE NOW ENROUTE TO BONN FOR BRIEF MEETING WITH SCHEEL AND BRANDT AND WILL THEN GO ON TO BRUSSELS WHERE I WILL BRIEF NATO TOMORROW. I WILL BE BACK IN WASHINGTON ON MONDAY EVENING AND READY TO REPORT TO YOU PERSONALLY ON TUESDAY.

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