

MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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September 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Additional Information Items

Declining Morale Within Jordanian Armed Forces: Conditions similar to those that provoked an army mutiny at Zarqa in early 1974 -- low salaries, rampant inflation and unchecked corruption in the military hierarchy -- are again undermining the morale of middle-level Jordanian officers and enlisted personnel.

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This dissatisfaction does not appear to constitute an immediate threat to King Husayn, who retains the loyalty of senior officers dependent on him for their positions. Serious unrest may develop, however, unless Husayn takes a more active role soon to improve living conditions in the armed forces.

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the potential for trouble will be particularly high in October. Many soldiers -- having spent most of their salaries to celebrate the end of the Ramadan month of fasting -- will then have little money left for normal living expenses and could thus become more disgruntled over their meager army pay. Although Husayn seemingly is yet unconcerned about the level of discontent, newly-appointed Prime Minister Badran appears to be seeking ways to redress army grievances. Badran recently authorized study of a plan to reduce the size of the army from five to three divisions, hoping that such a reduction in personnel would open the way to raise the salaries of those remaining in the service. Badran's authority over the army, however, is limited and his plan to reduce its size is likely to run aground against strong resistance from Bin Shakir who continues to enjoy Husayn's support.

Warsaw Pact Committee To Hold Political Gathering in Bucharest:  
A meeting in Bucharest of the Warsaw Pact Political Consul-

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tative Committee next month will give Ceausescu another opportunity to convince Brezhnev that he is making a serious effort to lessen bilateral tensions. Party secretary Stefan Andrei recently confirmed that the committee will meet in Bucharest during the last ten days of October and that Brezhnev will lead the Soviet delegation. Andrei reportedly stressed that the meeting would be routine and is not connected with Ceausescu's trip to the USSR last August. Andrei's description of the gathering seems intended to reassure both the West and Romania's independent allies that holding the meeting in Bucharest does not signal any basic change in Ceausescu's maverick policies. Romania has not played host to the Political Consultative Committee for ten years, and Ceausescu will probably tell the Soviets that the coming meeting demonstrates the durability of his recent conciliatory mood.

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