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<u>Doc #</u>	<u>DocType</u>	<u>Doc Info</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Restriction</u>
07	letter	King Hussein to LBJ	C	8	2/7/66	A
		dup., #23, NSF, Special Head of State Correspondence, "Jordan, King Hussein Correspondence"				
21a	letter	King Hussein to LBJ	C	4	[8/64]	A
		dup., #51a, NSF, Special Head of State Correspondence, "Jordan, King Hussein Correspondence"				

Collection Title National Security File, Special Head of State Correspondence File

Folder Title Jordan, Presidential Correspondence

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1. 1/3/64 Msg to Hussein delivered by Shriver//msg of good will ✓
 2. 1/21/64 Msg fm Hussein in reply to above (Tab 1) ✓
 3. 4/29/64 Msg to Hussein upon his departure of U.S. ✓
 4. 4/29/64 Msg fm Hussein upon leaving the U.S. ✓
 5. 8/8/64 Msg to Hussein re current Jordanian arms request ✓
 6. 8/15/64 Msg fm Hussein responding to above (Tab 5) ✓
 7. 1/13/65 Msg fm Hussein re floods and response ✓
 8. 6/15/65 Msg to Hussein re his injuries ✓
 9. 8/3/65 Msg to Hussein re the anniversary of his ascension to
the throne of Jordan ✓
 10. 8/14/65 Msg to P fm Hussein acknowledging above (Tab 9) ✓
 11. 11/9/65 Msg to Hussein frm P re 30th birthday ✓
 12. 11/17/65 Msg fm Hussein to P re response to above (Tab 11) ✓
 13. 2/7/66 Ltr to Pres. frm Hussein re aircraft ✓
 14. 2/14/66 Oral msg P to Hussein re supersonic aircraft (interim reply to/
Tab 13) ✓
 15. 2/24/66 P to Hussein re aircraft ✓

2

15

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

143753

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

~~SECRET~~

02

g ✓
Origin
SS
Info:

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

PRIORITY 404

FEB 26 3 57 PM '68

Your 496 ~~and Depose XXXXX~~

EXDIS

1. Request you deliver following oral message to King from President:

QTE After full and careful consideration of the problems you face, I have decided we should make a special effort on a one time basis to meet your request for supersonic defensive aircraft. You are already aware of the many reasons for our reluctance to make this decision. These reasons still exist. Our decision to proceed despite them takes into account the special relationship between our two countries and the extreme pressures that you have felt. The proposals that I have authorized Ambassador Barnes to deliver to you represent a maximum stretching of ^{OUR} policy ~~considerations~~, and I therefore earnestly hope that you will find them acceptable. UNQTE

2. You will receive by separate message further instructions regarding proposal you should present to King.

3. If King should remark on absence any reference in President's oral messages to his complaints about aid program or other sections his letter, you may state you informed full letter under study and that appropriate responses will be forthcoming. Dept would welcome any comments you have in that connection.

GP-3.

End

RUSK

Drafted by: NEA:NE;HMSymmes:fah:2/24/66	Tel. Ext. 2942	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA - Raymond A. Hare S/S - Mr. Rattray White House - Mr. Komer
Clearances: NEA - Mr. Davies DOD - Mr. Hoopes (subst.) NR - Col. Byrd	G/PM - Mr. Meyers DOD/ISA - Mr. Stoddart (draft)	

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DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

FORM 8-63 DS-322

Authority FRUS, Vol. XVIII, #276
By ly, NARA, Date 10-24-01

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14

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

07627

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

~~SECRET~~

20

80
Origin
55
Info

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN 379

FEB 14 9 30 PM '66

EXDIS

Please deliver following oral message from President to King Hussein:

QUOTE I appreciate your candid letter about the urgency and ~~importance you/attach~~ ^{attach} ~~attach~~ to Jordan's need for supersonic aircraft.

In the same spirit, I assure you that it remains our policy to support the integrity and progress of Jordan to the fullest extent. Within our capabilities and our many world-wide commitments we intend to continue viewing Jordan's needs with understanding and sympathy.

We have never hidden from you that Jordan's request for supersonic aircraft raises grave and complex ^{problems} ~~problems~~ for us, beyond those we recognize it raises for you. From the beginning we have given this matter the most searching study. Aware of the increasing pressure being felt by Your Majesty, I have asked for an urgent and searching re-examination of how the problem can

Drafted by:

NEA:RPDavies:NE:HMSymmes:bw

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

NEA - Amb. Hare

Clearances:

S/S - Mr. Kelley

White House - Mr. Komer

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.5

~~SECRET~~

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FORM 8-63 DS-322

NLJ-S-98001
By H NARA, Date 10-24-01

FEB 23 1966

~~SECRET~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ be met in a way that will be best for both of us.
We will be in touch with you further, hopefully in no more than
a few weeks. In the meantime, I earnestly hope you will be able
to hold off any decision on your aircraft needs that would put
strains on our ability to maintain the closest ties with you and
your country.

With highest regards,

Lyndon B. Johnson UNQUOTE

GP-1

END.

RUSK

~~SECRET~~

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13



~~(Highly Confidential)~~

THE ROYAL PALACE,
Amman, Jordan.
7th Feb., 1966.

Dear Mr. President:

Ever since my visit to Washington when I had the pleasure and privilege of meeting you personally, I have often recalled your very kind offer for me to write to you from time to time; as the friend I am proud to be of your goodself and as the leader of Jordan and its people, who have through their courage and determination upheld their convictions and thus earned the friendship and support of the Government and people of the United States, and the prominent place they occupy at least in this part of the world, amongst the free and freedom loving.

That I have failed, to take advantage of your kind offer as much as I would have liked to, was only caused by my awareness of your great and demanding responsibilities.

I had personally supervised and satisfied myself, that in our joint interest the Government of Jordan has continuously made every effort, aiming at resolving all problems and difficulties encountered in different areas of our mutual co-operation. I had thus, resolved to avoid approaching you directly Mr. President, unless my Government's efforts met with some insurmountable obstacles, spelling failure, and the implications were too dangerous and far reaching.

Unfortunately some very serious obstacles have been encountered by us and in approaching you directly Mr. President; The Government of Jordan is making a final effort to surmount them with your help. I hope that you will appreciate the extreme anxiety and sense of urgency that has prompted me to write to you.

These obstacles specifically lie in two fields: I) In the field of economic development. II) In the field of Military defence.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 03-33
By is NARA, Date 7-17-03



- 2 -

In the field of economic development, Jordan has taken important strides towards attaining the better future it seeks, and Jordanians are determined to spare no effort to insure the successful accomplishment of our 7 year plan of economic development, as an important land mark in Jordans transition into that better future. Up to this time the Jordanian experiment has been a successful one, and our gratitude has been boundless for all the help and assistance which we have received from the friendly United States Governments, in persuance of our objectives. In an area where stability lacked, democracy was nearly stifled and where freedom was seriously threatened; We were able to meet this challenge well. The Jordanian experiment has been a shining example of what stability and democracy and the determination of a people can achieve, yet it distresses me to bring to your attention Mr. President the following brief review of the current position of the United States Government's contribution to the development program:-

Prior to the beginning of the current Jordanian fiscal year (Beginning April 1965) US/AID agreed to make available to Jordan \$35 million to be allocated for economic development projects within the Seven-Year Program. The total amount was included under the " Capital Development " section of the Government of Jordan's budget for 1965/66.

The current Jordanian fiscal year is close toward its end and until now no disbursement has been made under any of the projects agreed to be considered for financing under this program. Furthermore there has been a noticeable delay in the processing and approval of the loan applications and in the appointment of consulting firms for the preparation of feasibility studies in support of the loan applications.

The following list gives a progress report on the status of these projects:

1. North Shunah-Damieh Road: \$1.6 million: the loan agreement was signed after some delay on 30 September 1965. The contract was then awarded and order to proceed was issued. So far no disbursement.
2. Bethlehem-Jerusalem Road: \$1.95 million: The Ministry of Public Works submitted all documentation needed in support of the loan application Bids were invited for the section from Bethlehem to Jerusalem intersection. So far the Ministry has not been able to adjudicate these tenders nor to



- 3 -

issue a new one for the whole road in view of the delay in the approval of the loan. So far AID/W has not been able to make its mind as to the nature of the intersection and whether the contract should be issued as one contract or two.

3. Jerusalem Airport: \$2.8 million: AID/W took several months before an American consulting firm was appointed to undertake the preparation of a feasibility study. The firm has finished its work in 75 days and submitted its draft report on January 15, 1966. Several months will be needed before the loan is processed or approved. In the meanwhile the Jordan Government wishes to proceed with the preparation of detailed design and tender documents to save time if and when the loan is approved.

4. Telecommunication (Microwave) \$6.8 million: Feasibility study and request for loan were submitted by the Jordan Government on August 4th, 1965 for a loan of \$6.8 million to finance the first stage of the telecommunication improvement program. In the meanwhile the Jordan Government appointed from its resources and at its own risk, with the approval of AID (Microwave Inc.) for the preparation of detailed design and tender documents. AID believes that loan approval may not be forthcoming before the end of March 1966.

5. Potash: \$15 million: the approval of this project is conditional on the successful completion of the current negotiations with both IBRD and IMC and the completion of the definitive cost estimates by Jacobs Engineering Co. At least six months will be required before any loan agreement can be signed.

6. Electrification Program: Thermal generation of electricity at Zerqa and other area: \$6.81 million: AID/W has appointed early this month (Kuljian Inc.), an American consulting firm to prepare a feasibility study. The work will not be completed before the end of June 1966. At least three months will be required for processing the loan application from the date of its submission along with all proper documentation.

The Government of Jordan has made every effort to remedy this situation, nor do I believe that the United States Embassy in Jordan has failed to do its utmost to speed up the process in Washington, indeed there has existed here between our Government and responsible branches in the

... / 4



- 4 -

United States Embassy a harmony that has stemmed from a close association that inevitably leads to understanding, the delays encountered in trying to implement the different aspects of the aid program have been very damaging to us and to the effective image that we would have wished the United States Government's aid to appear in, while we feel the reluctance of the United States Government to support our obtaining hard loans from other sources in the free world, and know that it understandably prefers for us to accept American soft loans instead, the delays involved in terms of time for receiving these loans and consequently in executing our projects, thus, the loss in revenues is as costly possibly more so than if we would have obtained hard loans from other sources in the free world with shorter proceedings.

Jordan has been and can become even more of a show-piece of how co-operation between any determined hardworking, free and democratic regime and the Government of the United States could bring about great mutual benefits, if only so much red tape did not exist and if the machines did not grind so slow. We have high hopes Mr. President, in your personal intervention in Washington to help us surmount the obstacles in this field.

In the other field, (of Military Defence) although less important in the long run the urgency is far greater for immediate action particularly in the field of requirements for Air defence, specifically Supersonics (once again) for our Air Force.

It has been sometime since I last approached you on this subject, seeking your aid and assistance, yet despite the passage of time and the really serious nature of this problem and the far reaching consequences of leaving it unresolved. Washington, has turned quite frankly a deaf ear to all our pleas for action on this subject and following is a summary of events. In a letter I sent on February 18, 1965, to the United States Ambassador Mr. Robert Barnes for urgent transmission to the highest possible levels concerned I stated:

" In regard to the question of aircraft I am happy to inform you that if the United States Government is able to confirm that no aircraft of the F.104 type and series of American or other free world manufacture have been delivered to Israel; If the U.S. Government is willing to re-emphasize its policy of denying both the Arab and Israeli sides the acquisition of this type of aircraft in all its series or any other type of American aircraft of



- 5 -

the same or more advanced type built or to be built either in the United States or under licence else-where for a period covering at least the full duration of the agreements to be signed under the terms of the memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Government and the Government of Jordan; then Jordan desiring most sincerely to help solve the problem now existing over its request to be supplied with the 104 type aircraft for use in its air force, and in connection with the previously mentioned U.S. policy will agree to change its request and limit it to U.S. Government's help and cooperation to enable Jordan to obtain the aircraft it seeks to acquire to be of other free world manufacture and to be at least of the French type Mirage III now in service with the Israeli Air Force and similarly equipped.

The Jordan Government has already begun to explore the possibilities of acquiring the Mirage III with France and will inform you immediately any results materialise.

The Jordan Government wishes to confirm that it will undertake to supply its armed forces with arms and equipment of free world manufacture solely so long as it is able to do so through such arms and equipment being made available to her.

Jordan wishes to reaffirm its commitments under the agreement of the Joint Arab Defence of the Arab League through which the U.A.C. developed".

We went to France following the advice of the United States Government and strengthened by its promise of help and although we were to have resolved this problem, before appearing at the Third Arab Summit Conference which was held at Casablanca during September 1965. We felt sufficiently encouraged, when challenged, both by the United States Government's attitude at the time, and our initial talks in France, regarding the outcome, to the point where we asked for a grace period of two months during which we believed ourselves able to come up with a satisfactory contract of aircraft purchase before the Unified Arab Command, thus resolving the problem, and barring which we stated before the conference that we would leave it to the Unified Arab Command to arrange for the supply to us of the number of supersonics required from any source available.

The two months have long past and we have dodged until this moment, the outcome of our failure. This failure was not the result of France's reluctance to discuss the problem with us right up to the point of pre-signing

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- 6 -

a finalized agreement to supply us with 36 Mirage III aircraft of the type B and E and related equipment for we had during the last Arab Summit Conference managed to persuade the Unified Arab Command to accept our point of view, that it was physically impossible for us to operate the 60 Supersonics they wished us to acquire within the period of time they specified even if the finances available made their purchase easy. In France, I went right up to the President who was sympathetic and whose personal intervention made it possible for us to reach the stage of pre-signing a finalized agreement. The problem however lay with Washington, and even as far back as early October 1965, we approached the U.S. Embassy in Amman to arrange, as previously agreed, for a resumption of talks leading up to resolving this problem, this by arranging for the Jordanian Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Amer Khammash, to visit Washington immediately, but the response discouraged this taking place, and as the situation deteriorated further, I was in continuous contact with the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, over this subject and requested approval for a visit to Washington of the General and a top Government official to review the situation; But this was to no avail, I felt the situation become as serious as to warrant my expressing readiness to go myself to Washington to discuss this crisis which I felt could rapidly lead to a deterioration of our present friendly relations and cause exceedingly serious and damaging results to our joint interest, but no answers came. I honestly began to feel embarrassed on behalf of the United States Ambassador, who had to meet me repeatedly under such circumstances. Moreover, as things still stand, and as the danger mounts and the consequences of our continuing to be in such a vulnerable position seems more imminent, I got to learn of the recall of the present American Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Robert Barnes, and the appointment of a new Ambassador; and so it came that I found no option but to approach you personally in this urgent manner.

Mr. President, there are many arguments to justify our demand for immediate and final attention on the question of supersonics to our Royal Jordanian Air Force, the very fact that the Communist Camp is willing to supply our Air Force with the needed aircraft to be of the most modern types within the resources available to us, and in fact at any cost, is in itself an indication that such a supply would above all represent a political triumph for Communism in this area. The very fact that we have spared no effort to harness the extremist dangerous forces in our area, regarding the Palestine issue under the Arab Summit Conference and Arab unanimous decisions

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- 7 -

and the very defensive nature of all Arab plans under the Unified Arab Command, would have in our opinion, enough merits to justify our demanding and expecting the support of our old friends who have always claimed they were for moderation and professed to encourage constructive attitudes. The very fact that the need for a modest modernisation of our Armed Forces had been agreed upon by both our Governments, since long ago and that, in the face of serious threats to our very existence, to our beliefs that have united us with you as free people, would have been in our opinion sufficient justification to make the U.S. Government feel disposed to assist us fully. That, and the very nature of our present military assessment of what will be the case, when all the programs devised and implemented through the Unified Arab Command are completed, which in brief suggests that we would then just be able to achieve a balance of power necessary to thwart any further expansionist military action which Israel might attempt.

That it should have been clear to our friends, particularly in Washington, who claim to be striving to maintain a balance of power detrimental to an explosion of the Palestine issue, that our request was in fact in implementation of such a policy which we recognize to be a prerequisite to a just, satisfactory and final solution to the tragedy of Palestine seemed to us an accomplished fact. After all we never asked for more than what we considered to be the barest minimum requirement for our legitimate selfdefence. We never asked for anything more than was absolutely necessary for us to overcome the complex from which all Arabs suffer, that of being constantly threatened, by a foe with a long record of hostile actions. We never asked for an alternative to strength that would be that of freedom, free people and for stability and moderation, yet we are, it would seem, at the end of the line. There are many, I am sure whose sympathies towards Israel would go as far as to make them encourage a course of action that would lead to a crystalization of the Arab-Israeli dispute as an East West conflict even if this meant sacrificing friends as we are, and as we have proved to be, free, and freedom loving.

Communism has had for long as its target the overrunning of this area and the control of its strategic position, and to step from it towards greater targets in Africa and elsewhere, how sad it is to see that through ignorance or unreasonable sympathy for Israel which is in fact the leading Socialist regime in this area, that free people and the United States itself may face losing so much.



- 8 -

Jordan, Mr. President, which has found itself so closely associated in the battle of ideologies with the United States and which, only for example, remains the last state in the area continuing to vote against the admittance of Communist China to the United Nations. Jordan which has most recently played the key role at the Security Council in fostering your attempts, Mr. President, for an honourable peace in Vietnam. Jordan now finds itself at what could be the end of the line. I hope that my bitterness and frankness will be properly interpreted in the light of what my country now faces, and Mr. President, through our association truth and honesty, not bluff, have been our way.

I also hope most sincerely that we would not have been wrong to consider you our last resort, and in ascertaining your understanding and support in this emergency, to order immediate action, to finalise measures, to furnish our R.J.A.F with 36 in number, Supersonic interceptor ground support aircraft, of the type F-104, four of which to be F-104B trainers, and related equipment; or 36 Mirage III French type aircraft, four of which to be of the type Mirage II trainers and the rest to be of the type Mirage IIIE interceptor ground support aircraft, with related equipment, the subject of our near-final agreement with France. Especially since both Saudi Arabia and Lebanon have already signed contracts of aircraft purchase leaving us only in this vulnerable position.

To those who suggest that the United States Government would face having to supply Israel with supersonics if it did so in the case of Jordan, an answer that comes to mind is that it might find itself compelled to do so if Jordan were forced to acquire very modern Soviet manufactured aircraft, but that the United States, in such an eventuality, would more than likely have lost Jordan, and sacrificed its freedom and the whole situation in the area and context, may then be greatly altered.

Jordan has been more than a match to the enemies of freedom, progress and moderation in this area in the past, whether it is destined to continue to be so depends to an unlimited extent on your expected reaction to the contents of this letter.

I am hopefully awaiting your earliest favourable reaction, I remain your sincere friend Mr. President, wishing you continued success in executing your great and demanding responsibilities, with my renewed best regards,

Yours most sincerely,

President Lyndon B. Johnson,
The White House,
Washington D. C.

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12.

The White House
Washington

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RECEIVED
McGEORGE BUNCEY'S OFFICE

1965 NOV 16 PM 2 36

1965 NOV 17 AM 8 35

WA058 VIA WUI

AMMAN ROYAL PALACE 61 16 1430

ETAT MR LYNDON B JOHNSON PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

PLEASE ACCEPT MR PRESIDENT MY SINCERE THANKS AND GRATITUDE
FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF
MY BIRTHDAY STOP I SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW MY BEST
WISHES FOR YOUR WELL BEING AND HAPPINESS AND THE WELFARE AND
PROSPERITY OF YOUR NATION

ALHUSSEIN.

10

11.

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

04578

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

84

Origin
NEA
Info:

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

207

Nov 9 11 56 AM '65

SS
P
USIA
NSC
CPR

Embassy should deliver following message:

"His Majesty

King Hussein

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

I take great pleasure in sending personal greetings and best wishes to Your Majesty on the occasion of your thirtieth birthday. Few men are called upon to face the demands of political leadership so early in life as you have been, and fewer still could have displayed the wisdom and courage which you have so consistently demonstrated.

Lyndon B. Johnson"

White House does not plan release but has no objection if GOJ wishes do so.

END

RUSK

Drafted by:	Tel. Ext.	Telegraphic transmission and
NEA:NE:LFDinsmore:es:11/3/65	3235	classification approved by: NEA - Raymond A. Hare

Clearances:

NE - Mr. Symmes

White House - Mr. Komer

S/S - Mr. Walsh

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The White House
Washington

1965 AUG 14 PM 3 50

WA149 INTL

CD ROYALPALACE/AMMAN VIA WUI AUG 14 1430

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

MR PRESIDENT IT IS WITH DEEP APPRECIATION THAT I RECEIVED YOUR
MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY ASCENSION TO
THE THRONE OF JORDAN STOP WE IN JORDAN ALSO VALUE THE CLOSE
RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN US AND STEMMING FROM OUR JOINT BELIEFS
IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES STOP WITH MY DEEP GRATITUDE AND BEST WISHES AND
REGARDS STOP SINCERELY

ALHUSSEIN.

40200

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9.

174
OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

46

AUG 3 12 34 PM '65

Origin
NEA

ACTION: Amambassy AMMAN

49

Info:

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USIA

NSC

CPR

Embassy should deliver following message:

"His Majesty

King Hussein

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

"It is with particular pleasure that I greet you on this occasion of the anniversary of your ascension to the throne of Jordan. The United States values its close relations with Jordan, and we look forward to continuing cordial relationships with your Government as Jordan prospers under your wise leadership. Lyndon B. Johnson"

White House does not plan release but has no objection if GOJ wishes do so.

END

RUSIK

Drafted by:

NEA:NE:LFDinsmore:es:7/30/65

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

NEA - William J. Handley

Clearances:

NE - Mr. Davies

S/S - Mr. Walsh

White House - Mr. Komer

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

08524

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

46

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

700

NEA

Info:

JUN 15 2 50 PM '65

SS

Please convey following personal message from President to

P

King Hussain:

USIA

NSC

CPR

"Most concerned learn of your injuries and relieved to learn you are now moving rapidly toward full recovery.

"With very best wishes.

Lyndon B. Johnson"

Message not for release.

GP-3

END

RUSK

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958-Sec. 3.5
NLJ-S-93001
By ly NARA, Date 10-29-01

Drafted by:

NEA:NE:RPDavies:eae 6/14/65

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

NEA - Phillips Talbot

Clearances:

s/s - Mr. Walsh
White House - Mr. Komer

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

05151

19

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED

83

Origin ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN 368

NEA
Info:

JAN 13 4 05 PM '65

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USIA

NSC

CPR

Following message received:

QUOTE The President, The White House.

On behalf of my Jordanian family and in the name of the Government of Jordan we would like to extend our sympathies and condolences to you Mr. President and the Government and people of the United States of America for the victims of the floods that hit the Western States.

Al-Hussein UNQUOTE

Request you deliver following message in reply:

QUOTE His Majesty King Hussein

I deeply appreciate your Majesty's thoughtful and friendly message of sympathy concerning the tragic losses sustained in the flood stricken areas, and I gratefully accept these condolences on behalf of the people of the areas affected. LYNDON B. JOHNSON UNQUOTE

does not plan release of messages but has
White House / does not plan release but has no objection should King

KRS

Hussein wish to do so.

END

RUSK

Drafted by:

Telegraphic transmission and

NEA:NE:LDinsmore:apr:1/4/65

classification approved by: NEA - Phillips Talbot

Clearances:

NEA/NE - Mr. Davies
NEA - Mr. Jernegan
S/S - Mr. Hoffacker

~~XXXXXXX~~
White House -
Mr. Komer

NEA/P - Mr. Fisk

P - Mr. McCloskey

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4554



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

J. L. Jones 8/31
J. R. H. 2/

August 28, 1964

IN REPLY REFER TO:

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM TO MR. McGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Letter from King Hussein to President

The Department forwards the original, but unsigned, letter from King Hussein to the President, the text of which was received earlier in Embassy Amman's telegram 99. The letter is in response to the President's message to Hussein contained in the Department's telegram No. 80 to Amman.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Barnes has spoken with King Hussein who appeared to accept our proposals to send an Air Survey Team to Jordan and to defer a decision on the supersonic problem until after the Arab Summit meeting. There does not, therefore, appear to be any reason at this time for the President to answer the enclosed letter.

Steps to implement the proposals to re-examine the supersonic plane question and to send a survey team are now under consideration.

7s/ J. W. Davis *for*

Benjamin H. Read
Executive Secretary

Enclosure:

Letter from King Hussein.

Group 3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals;
not automatically declassified

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.5
NLJ-S-0001
By *ny*, NARA, Date *10-24-01*



21a

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. President:

I have been deeply touched by your very friendly message which Ambassador Barnes conveyed to me most recently. I had planned to write to you availing myself of the opportunity you kindly offered me, to do so from time to time. And I still hope to do so again following the second Arab Summit Conference during which I plan to convey to my brethren the Arab Leaders your message of friendship and goodwill which you kindly charged me to deliver during my recent visit to the United States and also my impressions and thoughts stemming from that visit.

Mr. President, amongst the most valued of my friendships in this world is that which exists between us. I feel this is more so, since our last meetings in Washington. I have felt and appreciated your deep interest in my Jordanian Family and self, equally so, in my larger Arab Family, and also in the problems and challenges that face us, as well as the ways in which we meet them. Your recent message Mr. President is only the most recent indication of this interest and concern. With the same sincerity and frankness which was so clear in your recent message as always, I now address you, fully aware of the heavy responsibilities I bear but more so of the greater and far heavier responsibilities which you bear in this world, and the weight and importance that are attached to all your decisions, and actions.

I address you Mr. President in a manner stemming from the friendship which I have always had for the United States and the pride which I have always cherished with the people of Jordan, through the most difficult times; pride in our beliefs and convictions, pride in the ideals and principles which we share and have always shared with the people of the United States and the family of free nations, and pride in the fact that in facing the most difficult trials, time and again, we were always ready to lay our lives down in defending those beliefs. We have at the same time never and will never forget the support which our friends especially in the United States, gave us and continue to give us through these years in so many ways, Support and assistance which has and is enabling us to come rapidly closer to our objective of becoming economically sound and a model to others.

Mr. President, I do hope that you are completely aware of all the aspects of the problem of arms to my country but more so of the urgent reasons that have necessitated our requests; reasons which I have done my utmost to explain fully to Ambassador Barnes and which similarly our special military envoy covered during talks held recently in Washington. I have since receiving your message Mr. President, had a very frank talk with Ambassador

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By js NARA, Date 7-17-03

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Barnes again explaining once more and in no uncertain terms, the difficulties we face, the dangers close at hand and the damage which we can clearly foresee and expect, not only to Jordan and its interests and future, but also to the United States interests in the area, to the Free World's interests, and to peace and stability in this area, should misunderstandings develop between us further to such a point, were the struggle which Jordan has maintained for years and all that Jordan fought against so bitterly, win an easy victory through Jordan being forced to accept defensive military equipment from other sources, due to its failing to obtain them from friends, namely from the United States.

Mr. President, I assure you I can see most clearly the communist plan to increase its influence and hence its control over the whole Arab world, through exploiting such situations. This has been clearly illustrated time and again. I can just as clearly Mr. President, see the Zionist plan aiming at changing the Israeli Arab conflict into an East-West one, with all the Arab states on one side and Israel on the other, whether these Arab states liked it or not; and more than that Mr. President, I can see the dangers, which I implore you as a friend and as a great leader bearing the heaviest of responsibilities, to examine fully the dangers to the area, to peace and to the vital interests of the United States as well as the free world as a whole, in this strategically important part of the world, dangers that involve us all, and could spell disaster on a very large scale.

Mr. President, Jordan's armed forces which are free world equipped and which are among the few so remaining, and which are now a part of the forces of defence under the Arab Unified Command, I assure you, will be sensibly and realistically equipped. We welcome your help in facing this task and we are as anxious as you are if not more so, to preserve our happy relationship and not jeopardize your interests or ours. Mr. President, our true interests are identical, and I most sincerely hope that all my friends in Washington may find it possible to credit me with a little wisdom stemming from a little experience gained through the years, as well as with sense and realism.

Jordan, Mr. President, stands on the longest truce line of any Arab state with Israel. The truce line between Jordan and Israel is in fact longer than those of all the Arab states bordering a truce line with Israel put together. Jordan's well trained forces, in the estimation of the Jordanian military high command as well as that of the Arab Unified Command, are incapable as they stand , of defending my country's west bank for more than 48 hours in case of an Israeli full offensive. Jordanian officers who have had many opportunities of visiting other Arab states can not but notice with bitterness the difference between our equipment and theirs, and their moral that had always been high, can not but

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begin to be affected especially when no Jordanian can fail to recognise the danger to his homeland of a future Israeli action, in particular if Jordan's military situation remained as it is. In much the same way, no one can see the problem of Palestine moving towards its solution until a real balance of power between the Arab world and Israel is brought about, with Jordan as an integral part of it. The Arab states sensing the ever present threat that Israel represents, with its expansionist policies, brought into existence the Unified Arab Command to organise and supervise the defence of the Arab homeland, to minimise the danger and to narrow the gap and bring a real balance of power into existence in a way that would be detrimental to further complications. Mr. President I implore you in the face of danger we confront and the record of facts of the Israeli-Arab conflict, to help me find a way of convincing myself before considering convincing others, that one squadron of supersonic fighter aircraft already agreed upon between the Jordanian military high command and the Unified Arab Command, as being though inadequate, an essential for Jordan's air defence together with the other Jordanian ground attack squadron which now constitutes our air force. How, Mr. President, can I convince myself before attempting to convince others, that such a squadron of supersonics is a luxury not required when it is to be paid for and maintained by external Arab funds. And the offer to supply such a squadron by the U.A.C. comprised of 20 Mig 21 with their new base, the first part of which we refused stating our confidence in our ability to obtain better if not similar equipment from our friends and that, were we to fail, then the U.A.C. may do what it found suitable to provide our requirements. Were we so sure that our friends would not fail us or fail to see that in a way, whereas the 20 supersonics we requested from you, would not alter the balance in the area as the United States government readily agrees for after all, Israel has a vastly and numerically superior air force and the American Hawk anti-aircraft missiles, that these planes flown all over the Arab world by the best well trained Arab pilots could only help bring for the first time a comparison between communist equipment and free world products. How Mr. President, if the answer is still negative can we continue to refuse the Migs. How could we minimise the damage of accepting the Migs. How can I inform my brethren the Arab Leaders at our next summit meeting that what we had agreed with the U.A.C. was essential to Jordan's defence provided all our worries were dealt with by them, regarding costs of purchase and maintenance, and that having reached that stage we now have changed our minds. How am I expected to be able to convince myself my people as well as all the Arab Leaders and peoples that the better course for us all lies in accepting the protection of the U.S. sixth fleet and forget all else. How Mr. President Am I expected to sell such an idea or maintain my position as a responsible moderate influence in the event that I am

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able to maintain it at all, following such a statement, and how Mr. President and as United States government hopes am I to present the United States' response "in the constructive fashion at which it is intended and avoid decisions which might weaken our relations" as Ambassador Barnes reports. The U.S. government's response to our requests contain their recognition that the Hawker-Hunter aircraft with which the R.J.A.A.F. is presently equipped will become "unsupportable at some point in the future", and that provision should be made by that time for the introduction of a replacement aircraft" into the R.J.A.A.F. Now if an additional squadron of supersonics is a luxury, is there no contradiction in this statement.

Mr. President, as regards the equipment required for our ground forces I wish to state our deepest gratitude for all of the sympathy and understanding that the request has met with, and although we hope that further talks could, when we are fully prepared, bring more satisfactory and always sensible and realistic results, we have but the deepest and sincerest of thanks.

I hope Sir that you may find it possible to appreciate what feelings have driven me to be so frank and lengthy.

Mr. President I shall stall in giving any answer to the many questions. I shall be asked later today in the U.A.R. on this subject, and throughout the period leading up to the 5th of September, when I hope to attend the 2nd Arab summit conference there.

I shall live with hope in a favourable response. My hope will not diminish and my faith in your ability to appreciate our position and to take the right decision will remain.

Once again, Mr. President, may I extend to you my respects, regards and sincerest wishes. May God help you make the right decisions always.

ALHUSSEIN

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IMMEDIATE 80

There follows oral message from President Johnson to be conveyed to King Hussein at time of your definitive talk with Hussein stemming from current Jordanian arms requests. In our view situation has reached stage where inadvisable further to postpone Presidential message. Talking points are in separate message.

"Your Majesty:

Your recent visit to Washington underlined the deep and cordial ties between Jordan and the US. For me personally, the visit was an occasion to take stock of the progress that has been achieved in Jordan under your wise leadership and to reaffirm the close relationships between our two ~~XXXX~~ countries. I felt your friendship for the US and sensed in turn your appreciation of the factors underlying our policies toward Jordan. I particularly appreciated the truth of your assurances to Ambassador Macomber several months ago that in Jordan's own interest there could be no basic change in our relations growing out of the exchange of Ambassadors between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

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Authority FRUS, Vol. XVIII, # 85
By y NARA, Date 10.24.01

Drafted by: NEA:NE:AIKillgore/HMSymmes/
White House:RWKomer:rvc:8/8/64

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA - Phillips Talbot

DOD/ISA - Mr. Stoddart
NR - Col. Bunte

S/S - Mr. Moose
White House - Mr. Komer

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No one is in a better position than Your Majesty to understand the sincerity of US interest in a fully independent and progressive Jordan. Our support has been proven over time. It is because I know you understand our great stake in Jordan's continued stability and progress that I want to raise with you my concern over recent developments that could adversely affect Jordan's very integrity. We understand your present problem regarding arms for Jordan. We face desire to help you ~~XXXX~~ it--sensibly and realistically--in ways which will preserve our happy relationship and not jeopardize your interests or ours.

So I have asked Ambassador Barnes to review with you my concerns in the fullest confidence and candor. He will speak frankly on my behalf and I shall welcome from Your Majesty a similarly frank and friendly response.

Lyndon B. Johnson."

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(The White House does not repeat not ~~XXXX~~ to have foregoing message released.)

contents

FOR CAIRO AND LONDON: This message FYI only and ~~XXXXXX~~ should be treated NOFORN as well as EXDIS.

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The White House
Washington

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THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

MAY I, MR. PRESIDENT, AS I LEAVE THE UNITED STATES, ONCE AGAIN
EXTEND TO YOU MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THE GREAT KINDNESS,
WARMTH AND HOSPITALITY WHICH YOU, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE
OF THIS GREAT NATION EXTENDED TO ME THROUGHOUT MY VISIT AND
STAY STOP I SHALL CARRY BACK WITH ME TO MY JORDANIAN FAMILY
AND ALL THE ARAB PEOPLE MANY IMPRESSIONS AND MESSAGES THE MOST

OUTSTANDING OF WHICH IS YOURS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S DESIRE
TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN ALREADY EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS
WITH THE ARAB NATION AND DESIRE AND WISH WE ALL RECIPROCATE
AND BELIEVE WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH GENUINE AND CONTINUOUS
EFFORT TO ACHIEVE BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AN END
TO WHICH I SHALL REMAIN FULLY DEDICATED FOR OUR TWO NATIONS'
JOINT INTEREST IN PROGRESS, STABILITY AND A JUST PEACE FOR
THE GOOD OF MANKIND STOP I SHALL TREASURE ALWAYS OUR FRIENDSHIP
MR PRESIDENT AND I EXTEND YOU MY SINCEREST WISHES FOR YOUR
CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH AND SUCCESS IN THE SERVICE OF YOUR PEOPLE

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AND THE WORLD AT LARGE
HUSSEIN OF JORDAN.

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Origin
NEA
Info:
SS
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ACTION:

His Majesty
King Hussein of Jordan,
Trans World Airlines, Ticket Counter,
Flight 700,
John F. Kennedy International Airport,
New York, New York

APR 29 1 59 PM '64

Your Majesty:

I
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~/hope that Your Majesty will return to
Jordan with pleasant memories of your visit to the
United States, and with renewed assurances of the
friendship which this country has always had for
Jordan. It has been both an honor and a pleasure
for me to be able personally to exchange views with
you. Please accept my best wishes for Your Majesty's
health and the continuation of your inspiring leader-
ship of the people of Jordan.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Drafted by:

NEA/P-JABillings

Clearances:

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

S/S - John McKesson

NE-Mr. Dinsmore
NEA-Mr. Jernegan
P-Mr. McCloskey

U/PR-Mr. King
U-Mr. Springsteen
White House-Mr. ~~Romer~~

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THE ROYAL PALACE,
Amman, Jordan,
January 11th, 1964.

Mr. President:

I have been touched by the expressions of greetings, best wishes and goodwill which your message, Mr. President, conveyed to me during the recent visit to Jordan of our good friend Sargent Shriver.

I acknowledge with appreciation the warm and friendly feelings which you, Mr. President, have expressed towards Jordan - The Holy Land, towards my Jordanian Family and myself.

I wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude your sincere and generous appreciation of the efforts which Jordan has been exerting towards achieving the maximum possible goals of progress, prosperity and social justice. These are goals to the attainment of which we are fully committed and dedicated. We are confident that with determination, the Jordanian Family, will succeed in facing and surmounting the problems of progress, notwithstanding the heavy burdens and obstacles which confront us in pursuing this all important task.

I am happy to acknowledge with appreciation and gratitude, the contribution which the government and people of the United States have made in assisting Jordan to achieve this aim.

I am equally happy to note, Mr. President, that you share our faith in achieving the targets of economic self-sufficiency to which we are making a relentless and all-out effort.

It is truly gratifying to receive, Mr. President, your categorical assurance s of continued United States assistance to Jordan towards this end.

Sincerely,

President Lynden B. Johnson,
President of the United States of America,
The White House,
Washington.

President Lynden B. Johnson,
President of the United States of America,
The White House,
Washington.



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1964

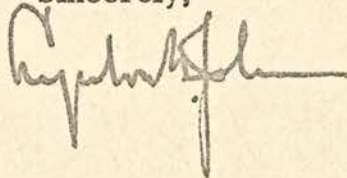
Your Majesty:

I am taking the occasion of the visit of my good friend and colleague Sargent Shriver to the Holy Land to have him convey to Your Majesty my sincere greetings and warm good wishes.

Although I have never visited Jordan, I feel I know your country both because of my deep interest in the Bible and because of the very close and cordial relations this country has with Jordan. Our support of Jordan's progress under Your Majesty's wise leadership has been shown in many ways. We have followed with pride the advances in Jordan's economic and political welfare. The United States is pleased to be associated with Your Majesty's efforts to build your country and serve your people.

I know the heavy burdens and serious obstacles faced by Your Majesty in leading Jordan forward. Only a few years ago it took great faith to believe Jordan could overcome the obstacles in its advance towards economic self-sufficiency. Your Majesty supplied that faith through your leadership. Your enduring confidence has now demonstrated that economic independence in the foreseeable future is no idle dream. Let me assure you most sincerely and categorically that the United States will continue to assist as it is able Jordan's efforts toward achieving the goals you have so wisely set.

Sincerely,



His Majesty
King Hussein
King of the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan