

April 24, 1975

VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES
BY KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN

The following announcement has the concurrence of the Jordanians.
They will make a simultaneous announcement at Noon today, EDT:

"His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan will make a private visit to the United States beginning late this month. At the President's invitation, the King will visit Washington and meet with the President on April 29. The President will host a working dinner in the King's honor that evening. King Hussein will meet with other high level U.S. officials as well as with members of Congress while in Washington.

King Hussein last met with President Ford on August 16, 1974. The current visit will provide an opportunity for them to renew their personal acquaintance as well as to discuss matters of common interest in the spirit of the warm and close relations between Jordan and the United States."

Q. Is the King's visit related to the U.S. -Middle East policy reassessment? Why is he coming so soon again?

A. We have very close and very good relations with Jordan and in that spirit, King Hussein met with President Ford last summer on August 16, 1974, when the key Arab and Israeli leaders visited Washington to exchange views on the negotiations. As far as this visit, the King has regularly made private visits to the U.S. over the past few years.

Knowing Hussein would be in the U.S., President Ford invited the King to come to Washington. This invitation preceded our policy reassessment. Secretary Kissinger -- when in Jordan on his last Middle East trip -- publicly announced at that time that the President invited King Hussein to Washington during His Majesty's planned visit to the U.S. Naturally, the President and the King will discuss the Middle East and other matters of common interest. But this visit is not directly related to our reassessment.

Q. Is Queen Alia coming?

A. We understand that she is not accompanying the King on this trip.

Q. Will they discuss the PLO issue and ways of involving the Palestinians in the negotiations? Will they discuss more military and economic assistance for Jordan? (In answer to all questions on substance of the planned meeting):

A. I have nothing to give you in advance of their meeting.

JORDANIAN/SYRIAN
JOINT COMMAND

Q. What can you tell us about reports that Syria and Jordan have agreed to establish joint commands and that an accord was reached under Soviet sponsorship?

A. We have no information confirming these reports.

FYI: Indications are that the reports are untrue and may have, in fact, been planted to affect the Middle East reassessment. The above guidance will be used by State as well.

April 28, 1975

ANNOUNCEMENT: Hussein Visit Reminder

His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan arrives here today for a private visit to the United States. The President will meet with King Hussein tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m. and will host a working dinner in the King's honor that evening. We will have a readout for you following the 10:30 meeting tomorrow.

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Pat Howard
Call - Jordanian Env's
Trusts - buy off
of network

HAWK SALES TO JORDAN

For rationale behind the Hawk sales during the course of the reassessment, refer to guidance of July 21.

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CBS reported yesterday that the Administration is backing down from its proposed sales of arms to Jordan and that it is now expected to present a scaled down proposal to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by Thursday.

Q. Are we in consultation with the Congress on the proposed arms sale to Jordan and are you prepared to adjust your request? What about Hussein's statement that any decrease in the proposed sale agreement would be looked up unfavorably and could affect US-Jordanian relations?

A. We have been in touch with the Jordanians and we have been in consultation with the Hill. (If asked about Hussein's statement: we have called the attention of the Hill to the Jordanian reaction.) I refer you to the State Department's remarks of yesterday on this issue and have nothing in addition to add.

FYI:

Anderson said: As you know, we are consulting with the Congress on the proposal to sell Jordan an air defense system. And the purpose of these consultations that we are now having, particularly with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is to find a way that we can carry out our commitment to Jordan and also, naturally, to meet Congressional concern -- and these consultations are continuing.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT OF KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN

His Majesty, King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, has accepted the President's invitation for a State visit. His Majesty is arriving in Washington to begin his visit and meet with the President tomorrow, March 30. The President and Mrs. Ford will host a White House dinner in honor of King Hussein and Queen Alia, who will accompany His Majesty.

President and Mrs. Ford look forward to meeting once again with Their Majesties. Their visit will serve to symbolize the close relationship and continuing friendship between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States.

Q. How come the Hussein visit is being announced today, just one day before the visit? What were the uncertainties that caused the delay?

A. It is true that King Hussein has been expected for some time, but the Jordanians preferred that the actual announcement be deferred.

Q. What else will the King visit in the United States?

A. I do not have the King's itinerary, but I understand State can provide that information.

Q. How many meetings are planned between the King and the President?

A. Two; Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a. m.

Q. Does the King's visit signify a possible new initiative involving Jordan and Israel and withdrawal from the West Bank? How can Jordan play a role when the Arab states have said that only the PLO can negotiate for the West Bank and for the Palestinians?

A. The King's visit reflects our close bilateral relations and the personal relationship between the King and the President -- the King has visited with the President on two occasions in the past two years; In August, 1974 and in April, 1975. Naturally, the Middle East situation will be discussed, but this visit should be viewed as part of the on-going consultations on the Middle East and not as any particular initiative.

Q. Will the King and the President discuss the disturbances on the West Bank? Will they discuss the problems in Lebanon? Will they discuss next steps in negotiations?

A. [In answer to all questions on the substance of the visit].
One can assume this might come up in an overall discussion of the Middle East, but I have nothing to give you in advance of the meetings.

Q. Why is the President attending the return Jordanian reception on March 31. Is this to make the King feel as important as Prime Minister Rabin (the President attended the return Israeli reception) and President Sadat (the President attend a return Egyptian dinner)?

A. The President will attend in the spirit of the close relations between our two countries and leaders.

Q. Why is the King getting a full State visit treatment? He has already been here twice under the President?

A. The King was the President's first foreign visitor in August, 1974, and since it was the first after the President assumed office, there was no time to plan a full State visit [although the President and Mrs. Ford hosted a gala dinner in honor of the King and the Queen.] The King's visit last year was in a private capacity though he had talks with the President in Washington [and was the guest of honor at a small working dinner.] This year is the first opportunity for the President and Mrs. Ford to host the King and Queen on a full State visit and they very much look forward to it.

April 1, 1976

KING HUSSEIN ON SYRIAN INTERVENTION

Q. News stories and wires are reporting that King Hussein tried to persuade the Ford Administration to back Syrian intervention in Lebanon. Is this true, and if so, what is the U. S. response?

A. We are not going to comment on the details of our discussions with the King, and especially not on news accounts of such discussions. Our position has, however, been made clear; we have stated that we are opposed to unilateral outside intervention in the Lebanon situation.

HAWKS FOR JORDAN

Q: There are reports that Jordan is no longer interested in purchasing Hawks from the U.S. Do you have any information on that?

A: As far as I know, their letter of offer still stands and the matter is still being negotiated.

August 2, 1976

JORDAN HAWK SALE

Q: Is it true that Jordan has decided against a Soviet air defense system and will purchase the HAWK with Saudi funds? Have the Saudis agreed to put up \$540 million for Jordan to buy the HAWK? [as reported in the New York Times]

A: We have always said that we are prepared to sell an air defense system to Jordan if the financing could be worked out and the prospects look promising. Discussions ^{are} continuing on the details of financing.

Q: Are you then denying that the Saudis have agreed to the higher sum of money and that Jordan will therefore buy the US system?

A: I am neither denying or confirming such reports. I am telling you that the details of the funding are still being worked out, including contacts between the Saudis and Jordanians and ourselves.

Q: Is the President relieved that the Jordanians will not turn to the Soviets?

A: We have said repeatedly since the issue of Soviet arms for Jordan first arose that we have had a long and constructive relationship with Jordan, that we have full confidence in that relationship, and that we have no reason to believe it will not continue. This remains the case.

August 8, 1975

HUSSEIN ON SOVIET ARMS PURCHASE

Today's New York Times and Washington Post report King Hussein's remarks that if the U. S. Congress refuses to allow Jordan to purchase the Hawk anti-aircraft missiles he would probably turn to the Soviet Union for an air defense system. That Jordan might look elsewhere for its air defense has been a major argument made by the Administration to the Congress on the necessity for going forward with the Hawk sale.

Q. What is your reaction to Hussein's statements that he might seek an air defense system from the Soviets?

A. I would like to respond to that question by saying that the Administration decision to provide an air defense system for Jordan was taken with careful consideration for the national security interests of the United States and in the desire to provide a friend in the Middle East with the means to meet its legitimate air defense needs. With these considerations in mind, the President intends to resubmit the request for Jordan to the Congress and to work with the membership to obtain approval for the sale.

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HAWK SALES TO JORDAN

There are wire reports this morning to the effect that King Hussein has backed away from the compromise on the sale of Hawks to Jordan stating that the conditions and obligations contained in President Ford's letter to Congress are unique and affect his country's national dignity.

Q. Is the report true, and if so, how will President Ford respond?

A. I have seen the reports you mention, but I have nothing to give you at this time. We will have to fill you in later as more information becomes available.

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN

To be used either as a readout, or in response to questions at the briefing:

Q. Why is the President meeting with Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan today?

A. Prince Hassan is in the United States to discuss his country's economic development with private ^{groups} companies and U. S. government officials. He and the President wanted to take this opportunity to renew their acquaintance (they last met during the Prince's visit to the U. S. in May, 1974) and to discuss Jordan's economic development programs. The President wanted to reassure the Crown Prince of our continued commitment to assist Jordan and of our willingness to examine sympathetically any proposals Hassan may have for establishing closer more efficient U. S. - Jordanian relationships in this field.

Q. Who, additionally, will participate in the meeting?

A. General Scowcroft.

Q. What kind of assistance do we provide Jordan?

A. We have requested \$77.5 million in supporting assistance for Jordan for FY '76, \$100 million in MAP, \$75 million in Military Credit sales, (\$253 million total).

Q. Who asked for the meeting?

A. It was mutually arranged.

U. N. RESOLUTION -- U. S. VOTE

Q. Why did we vote against last night's resolution?

A. Ambassador Moynihan's statement speaks for itself. Last night's resolution made no reference to acts of terrorism committed against Israel. Our vote was consistent with our votes on previous resolutions dealing with this subject. We have vetoed resolutions which did not take into account other terrorists acts and which focus exclusively only on Israel. We have supported resolutions which were balanced. *We deplore the Israeli attack but our efforts to obtain a balanced resolution were rejected so we vetoed the resolution*

ANGOLA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ONLY:

The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola is making slow but steady progress in obtaining international recognition of its government in Luanda.

Over the weekend, Tanzania became the 13th African state to recognize the regime. A total of 29 governments -- including 12 Communist countries, 3 Arab states, and Brazil -- now recognize the Popular Movement as the sole legitimate government of Angola.

No state has recognized the regime proclaimed jointly by the National Front for the Liberation of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola. It was not until last Wednesday that the coalition was inaugurated in Huambo, the former Nova Lisboa.

Most countries outside Africa clearly are taking a "wait-and-see" position on recognition, pending the development of a clear-cut African consensus in favor of one of the Angolan claimants.

Zaire -- the principal backer of the National Front -- reportedly plans to launch a diplomatic counter offensive, aimed at trying to hold the line against further recognitions of the Popular Movement. While the coalition has a number of sympathizers -- Senegal, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Central African Republic, and Tunisia -- it seems unlikely that a Zairian campaign would drum up much additional support.

* * * *

Q. How does the President view Amb. Moynihan's comments at the UN last evening, especially his implicit charges that the Soviet Union is attempting to recolonize Africa?

A. The President has made his views on Angola clear at his last press conference, as has Sec. Kissinger. We feel that the Soviet actions in Angola are not helpful in the continuation of detente. We support the OAU resolution calling for the establishment of a coalition government in Angola.

Q. Does the President still retain confidence in Moynihan?

A. The President has also recently addressed that question,
and I would have nothing further to add.

STATES THAT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA

AFRICAN

Guinea
Mozambique
Congo
Mali
Sao Tome and Principe
Guinea-Bissau
Somalia
Malagasy Republic
Algeria
Cape Verde Islands
Nigeria
Benin (ex-Dahomey)
Tanzania

COMMUNIST

Cuba
USSR
East Germany
Romania
North Vietnam
Bulgaria
Yugoslavia
Czechoslovakia
Poland
Hungary
North Korea
Mongolia

OTHER

Brazil
Syria
Yemen
Iraq

NORTH VIETNAMESE OVERTURES ON AMERICAN MIA'S

- Q. How does the Administration view the North Vietnamese willingness to turn over our Missing in Action? Will we reciprocate with any overtures of our own?
- A. First, let me say that we welcome the North Vietnamese decision. As for future moves, we will as the President indicated in Honolulu, look to the future in our relations with Indochina. Positive actions will not go unnoticed. As for reciprocity you may recall that we have authorized permission for shipment of various commodities to Vietnam.
- F. Y. I. Refer to State for further details.

November 17, 1976

TERRORISM IN JORDAN

Q. What is the reaction to the terrorist situation in Jordan? What do you know about the situation?

A. The latest reports indicate that the Jordanian Government action has successfully foiled the terrorist operation at the Inter-Continental Hotel and that the terrorists have been killed. Regrettably some other innocent bystanders are reported to have been killed or wounded. There were reportedly some injuries but no deaths among Americans staying in the hotel.

We strongly support the decisive action by the Jordanian Government. We strongly deplore this kind of cruel terrorist operation.

Q. Do you know the identity of the terrorists?

A. We do not have any firm information on their identity.

NEA PRESS GUIDANCE FOR JANUARY 8 NOON PRESS BRIEFING - STATE

Subject: F-5s from Iran to Jordan

Q. Why was the transfer approved?

A. Iran and Jordan are both close friends of the U.S. As you know, our policy is to support regional cooperation in that area of the world and to strengthen defenses of our friends. These older models of the F-5 -- the F-5A and F-5B -- are no longer needed by Iran and we decided that Jordan had a legitimate need for them, therefore we approved the transfer.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL --
SALES TO JORDAN

Q. Why has the U. S. held up certain new items for Israel as part of the Middle East policy reassessment but has gone ahead with the sale of the Hawk to Jordan? Is Israel being discriminated against?

A. We are moving on schedule to complete our economic and military assistance agreements with all countries in the Middle East for FY 75. On arms, the large special program Israel requested in late 1974 on an urgent basis has already been delivered, except in three or four cases of technical or availability problems. As for the regular military supply relationship, we are continuing to meet routine arms supply requests and deliver a large number of items in the pipeline; however, commitments for deliveries of new or advanced technology are not being made during the course of the reassessment. As our overall policy review proceeds, decisions will also be taken regarding these.

We have been discussing for over a year what help we might be able to give Jordan for its air defense. King Hussein was informed several months ago of our decision in principle to supply air defense equipment over the next several years. A survey team went to Jordan in February

and the matter was discussed further during King Hussein's visit last week during which final agreement was reached on details. A decision was made in principle before our reassessment began and, after careful consideration during the reassessment process, we have decided to go forward with it. The equipment involves purely defensive weapons and does not constitute a step to shift the balance in the area. In due course, decisions will be made with respect to other countries as well.

0/0 President's press conference
5/7 Morning guidance item

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HUSSEIN VISIT -- Q and A MATERIAL

Q. Did the President relay any Israeli proposal for opening negotiations with Jordan on the return of the West Bank? Is there any new initiative involved in the Hussein visit, following Israel's agreement to discuss a "non-belligerency" concept and territorial concessions?

A. The President and King Hussein had a wide-ranging discussion of the Middle East negotiating situation and the need for early progress but I am not going to get into the details of the discussion, which will continue during tomorrow's meeting.

Q. What about Hussein's desire, as reported in Newsweek, that Jordan will turn to the Soviets for an air defense system since Saudi Arabia will not provide enough funds for HAWKS from the US? Did the President tell Hussein not to turn to the Soviets?

A. As I mentioned, they discussed matters of common interest in our bilateral relationship, including our on-going economic and military assistance programs and the US commitment to continue with these programs. On air defense, our discussions continue with Jordan and Saudi Arabia on the basis of the Letters of Offer signed several months ago. But I am not going to get into the details of their discussion or of our military assistance relationship with Jordan.

Q. What was discussed on Lebanon? Did the President and King Hussein agree on what needs to be done from the outside in helping to settle the Lebanese crisis?

A. Both leaders are concerned about the acute situation in Lebanon and the need for a political solution and an end to the tragic fighting. They reviewed the situation but I am not going to get into the details of their discussions.

Q. How did King Hussein break his hand? [He is arriving with a cast]

A. I believe it was as a result of an athletic accident but you should really address this question to the Jordanians.

Q. When was Hussein last here?

A. King Hussein and Queen Alia were the President's first foreign head of state visitors in August, 1974, and the King also visited here last April.

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