

MARCH 30, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President and His Majesty, King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan met in the Oval Office at 11:12 a. m. for 75 minutes. Also attending the meeting on the American side were Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Under Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco, U. S. Ambassador to Jordan Thomas Pickering, and Brent Scowcroft; and on the Jordanian side Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rifai.

This meeting gave the President the opportunity to reaffirm the long-standing friendship the people of the United States have for the King and for the people of Jordan, and it is particularly fitting, in view of the long and close U. S. -Jordanian relations, that His Majesty is making this visit in our Bicentennial year. The President reiterated the importance we attach to a strong and stable Jordan and reaffirmed the interest of our Government in maintaining and strengthening these ties.

The President and His Majesty devoted most of their initial meeting to a discussion of the situation in Lebanon. His Majesty reviewed the tragic developments in Lebanon and the course of events over the past few days. Both leaders agreed on the need for both a ceasefire and a basic political solution that gives adequate opportunity and security to all Lebanese groups and maintains the independence, territorial integrity, and national unity of the country.

The President and His Majesty will continue their discussions tomorrow morning, with emphasis on the general situation in the Middle East and matters of bilateral interest. The President and Mrs. Ford look forward to hosting a State Dinner this evening in honor of Their Majesties, King Hussein and Queen Alia.

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