

16 Nov. 1983

THE WESTERN ROLE IN PRESERVING THE STABILITY OF JORDAN

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1. Jordan is an oasis of relative stability in an unstable region. But its future is inextricably tied up with that of the West Bank.

2. We should therefore take steps to maintain the stability and identity of the Occupied Territories. We should continue to oppose settlements and examine ways in which, without substantial new financial commitments, we can contribute to the economic and social development of the West Bank.

3. We should follow up the Prime Minister's remarks to President Reagan in further discussions with the US Administration underlining the threats to Jordan, supporting King Hussein's call for changes in US Middle East policy to enable the peace process to re-start and, in particular, urging the US not to go ahead with 'strategic cooperation' with Israel.

4. We should at an appropriate moment raise the subject in the Ten and consider whether there are any steps the Community could take to underline the need to preserve Jordan's stability;

5. Ministers should make clear in public our rejection of the 'Jordan-is-Palestine' argument, and ventilate the subject in bilateral discussions with the Israelis;

6. In Jordan itself we should back up our political support by practical steps, including maintaining our aid programme: promoting arms sales and defence cooperation; and keeping up a programme of high-level visits in both directions.

7. We should make full use of the State Visit to Jordan in 1984 to underline our close relationship, and consider a short stop-over by the Prime Minister; eg on the way to or from Malaysia, to reinforce the message.

8. To survive Jordan needs not only Western support but that of moderate Arab Governments. We should encourage the Saudis and Egyptians to play a more active role, but without exaggerated expectations of either;

9. If King Hussein takes the risky step of recalling the Jordanian parliament, we should publicly welcome the return of parliamentary democracy to Jordan.