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been singled out for special treatment—against speaking on behalf of the Palestinians.

A delegation from the countries represented at the summit—minus Syria—soon will travel to Baghdad in another effort to iron out differences between Iraq and Syria, according to Bouteflika. Iraq shows no sign of softening its position; in fact, Baghdad is increasing its output of anti-Syrian propaganda. Articles in Iraq's official Baath Party newspaper this week again made it clear that the Iraqis would make no military and economic commitments to Damascus unless it rejected the peace process, removed all restraints on Palestinians and leftist Lebanese in southern Lebanon, and agreed to a deployment of troops to the "Syrian front." [redacted]

ARAB STATES

The summit meeting of hard-line Arab states in Algiers late last week produced no public evidence that the participants—Algeria, Libya, Syria, South Yemen, and the Palestine Liberation Organization—came up with an effective way to challenge seriously Egyptian President Sadat's peace initiative. The conference spokesman, Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika, implied that secret resolutions were adopted, however.

The final communique generally reflected Syrian President Asad's views of the Arab-Israeli question, not those of Arabs—notably the Iraqis—who reject the very idea of negotiations with Israel. Iraq boycotted the conference when it could not get a guarantee in advance that a rejectionist line would be adopted.

Bouteflika's comments suggested that the strengthening of the Palestine resistance movement and improving relations between Syria and the PLO were the major topics of the summit. PLO chief Arafat's positive comments about Syria at the final session lend credence to that interpretation, although other reporting indicates Asad rejected Arafat's plea for a Syrian troop withdrawal from southern Lebanon. In what may have been a warning to Jordan to avoid participating in peace talks, the summit enjoined any Arab government—Egypt had already

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