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MIDEAST 9-2

NIGHT LD

BY MAURICE GUINDI

CAIRO (UPI) -- THE MAIN ARAB GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION HAS PROPOSED DIRECT TALKS WITH UNITED STATES OFFICIALS ON WAYS TO PROVIDE A HOMELAND FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, A WELL-PLACED ARAB SOURCE SAID MONDAY.

THE ONE CONDITION ATTACHED TO THE TALKS IS THAT THEY BE PUBLICIZED AND NOT SECRET, SAID THE SOURCE, WHO IS CLOSE TO THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AN UMBRELLA BODY OF ARAB GUERRILLA GROUPS.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN FLEW TO LONDON MONDAY FOR TALKS WITH BRITISH LEADERS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. GOVERNMENT SOURCES IN AMMAN SAID THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE HE HELD LAST MONTH WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

HUSSEIN IS TRYING TO WIN SUPPORT FOR A PROPOSED TROOP DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL ON THE JORDAN RIVER WEST BANK.

THE PLO COMMUNICATED THE TALKS OFFER TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH ARAB, ASIAN AND AFRICAN INTERMEDIARIES "WHICH ENJOY A GOOD STANDING IN WASHINGTON," THE SOURCE SAID. THE APPROACH WAS FIRST MADE ABOUT A MONTH AGO AND WAS RENEWED LAST WEEK.

"THE PLO IS READY AND WILLING TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON A HIGH-LEVEL SO LONG AS THEY ARE HELD OPENLY AND FOR ALL TO SEE, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN PALESTINIAN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION," THE SOURCE SAID.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE PLO HAS TAKEN CONCRETE ACTION FOR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID.

THERE HAS BEEN NO DEFINITE RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON SO FAR, HE SAID, BUT FIRST INDICATIONS WERE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD PREFER SECRET MEETINGS.

ONE POSSIBILITY THE PLO HAD IN MIND IS A MEETING BETWEEN PLO LEADER YASSIR ARAFAT AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER WHEN THE LATTER VISITS THE MIDDLE EAST LATER THIS YEAR, THE SOURCE SAID.

ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE SECOND DAY OF THEIR CONFERENCE HERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION THAT ARAB STATES RAISE THE PALESTINE QUESTION AT THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINING SEPT. 17.

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