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ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

IN 388849

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SECRET

CITE [redacted] (b)(3)

DIST 28 JULY 1971

COUNTRY: JORDAN/ARAB STATES/USSR

DOI : [redacted]

SUBJECT: 1. A SOVIET DIPLOMAT'S COMMENT ON THE LACK OF A SOVIET POLICY ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION
2. [redacted] COMMENTS TO THE SOVIET DIPLOMAT (b)(1)
ON THE RESULT OF (A) THE FIGHTING IN JORDAN AND (B) (b)(3)
THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ACQ : [redacted] (b)(1)
(b)(3)

SOURCE : [redacted] (b)(1)
(b)(3)

1. [redacted] A SOVIET DIPLOMAT (b)(1)
[redacted] SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT (b)(3)
THE RESULTS OF THE FIGHTING IN JORDAN BETWEEN THE PALESTINIAN (b)(1)
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[REDACTED] THE SOVIET COMMENTED TO A FRIEND THAT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT REALLY HAVE A SET POLICY ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AND THIS DEFICIENCY HAS HARMED AND WILL CONTINUE TO HARM THE GENERAL POLICY OF THE SOVIETS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS REALLY THE PRINCIPAL QUESTION OF THE WHOLE ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT; WITHOUT A SOLUTION TO IT, THE MOVEMENT REMAINS PRECARIOUS AND UNSTABLE.

2.

[REDACTED] THE SOVIET (b)(1)
(b)(3)

DIPLOMAT ASKED FOR INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) THE RESULTS OF THE FIGHTING IN JORDAN AND WHICH FORCES WERE USED;
- (B) THE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE FORCES REMAINING IN JORDAN;
- (C) THE RESULTS OF THE PLO/EC DISCUSSIONS AND THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

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A. FOR TWO MONTHS, THE JAA HAD BEEN PREPARING FOR BATTLE BY SURROUNDING THE FEDAYEEN AND HOLDING MANEUVERS IN ORDER TO FORCE THE FEDAYEEN TO REPLY AND WASTE THEIR AMMUNITION. THE ATTACK WAS BEGUN BY THE SECOND DIVISION, SUPPORTED BY TWO BRIGADES OF ARMORED CARS, EIGHTEEN BATTERIES OF ARTILLERY, AND TWO COMPANIES OF THE ROYAL GUARD, PLUS A NUMBER OF PARACHUTISTS, LED BY A PAKISTANI OFFICER.

B. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIGHTING, THERE WERE 3,500 FEDAYEEN AS FOLLOWS: 470 SA'IQA; 200 POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP); 100 PFLP/GENERAL COMMAND; 80 POPULAR DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PDFLP); 300 PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY (PLA); THE REMAINDER (2,350) FROM FATAH. THE JAA WAS UNABLE TO BREAK THROUGH THE FEDAYEEN LINES UNTIL THE SECOND DAY OF FIGHTING, AFTER SUFFERING LOSSES OF 500 SOLDIERS KILLED AND WOUNDED AND 30 TANKS DESTROYED. THE FEDAYEEN SUFFERED LOSSES OF ONE THOUSAND KILLED AND WOUNDED, PRIMARILY AS A RESULT OF THE CONCENTRATED ARTILLERY FIRE, WHICH CAME AT A RATE OF ONE SHELL PER SQUARE METER. IN ADDITION, 2,300 FEDAYEEN WERE TAKEN PRISONER, AND 200 ARE MISSING.

C. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE FEDAYEEN HAVE BUT ONE BASE, AT GHOR, WITH 200 FEDAYEEN WHO HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO LAY DOWN THEIR

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WEAPONS. THEY HAVE REFUSED, DEMANDING TO GO TO SYRIA WITH THEIR WEAPONS, TO REMAIN WHERE THEY ARE, OR TO SURRENDER TO ISRAEL, RATHER THAN SURRENDER TO THE JAA. A FEW MEN CONTINUE TO HIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS, AND SECRET CELLS EXIST IN AMMAN, AWAITING ORDERS TO GO INTO ACTION.

3. CONCERNING THE PLO/EC MEETINGS, TWO POINTS OF VIEW EMERGED, [REDACTED]

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A. THE FIRST, PUT FORTH BY THE PFLP REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PLO/EC, WAS THAT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE SHOULD PROCLAIM THE OVERTHROW OF KING HUSAYN'S REGIME BY DECLARING WAR ON HIM AND ENGAGING IN A SCORCHED-EARTH POLICY; MILITARILY, POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY AND BY URGING ALL THE ARAB COUNTRIES TO BREAK WITH HIM, IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE HIM SUBMIT OR MAKE A PACT WITH ISRAEL.

B. THE OTHER, PUT FORTH BY FATAH AND THE PDLFP, WAS THAT KING HUSAYN HAS NO AUTHORITY OVER THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THUS A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE MUST BE FORMED AS A PRELUDE TO A CLAIM FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE ON WEST BANK TERRITORY NOW OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. THIS PLAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE FAVORED BY UAR PRESIDENT ANWAR S A D A T AND KING F A Y S A L.

4. THE FATAH REPRESENTATIVES, ESPECIALLY KHALID H A S A N'S WING, WERE FRANKLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE IDEA THAT THE PLO/EC SHOULD OPT FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE AND A GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. HOWEVER, AFTER PLO/EC CHAIRMAN AND FATAH LEADER

5 YASIR A R A F A T MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ A S A D, THE SYRIAN POSITION WAS CLEAR
4
3 AND PRECISE AND DID NOT ENCOURAGE FATAH TO CONTINUE ALONG THOSE LINES. ASAD ARGUED
2 THAT SUCH A STATE, BETWEEN ISRAEL AND A SOLD-OUT HASHEMITE REGIME, COULD NOT
1 SURVIVE UNLESS IT PLACED ITSELF AT THE DISPOSITION OF ISRAEL AND THE JORDANIAN

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REGIME. BECAUSE OF SYRIA'S POSITION, THE ISSUE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE WAS LEFT UNRESOLVED, AND THE PLO/EC DECIDED TO UTILIZE OTHER POLITICAL MEASURES IN ORDER TO EXERT PRESSURE ON JORDAN AND THE VARIOUS ARAB COUNTRIES. AMONG THESE WERE:

A. THE PLO/EC DECIDED TO HOLD AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN BEIRUT, LEBANON, OF ALL THE NATIONAL AND PROGRESSIVE PARTIES, INCLUDING FRIENDLY EUROPEAN AND ASIATIC SOCIALIST PARTIES, IN AN EFFORT TO HELP THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE FIND A VIABLE AND RADICAL SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN AND PALESTINIAN/ISRAELI PROBLEMS.

B. IN ADDITION, THE UNION OF PALESTINIAN WORKERS, IN AGREEMENT WITH THE SYRIAN WORKERS FEDERATION, WILL HOLD A CONGRESS IN DAMASCUS IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF WORLD TRADE UNIONS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE, WITH THE SAME AIM OF MAKING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION BETTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD.

C. MOREOVER, IT WAS DECIDED THAT DELEGATIONS FROM THE PLO/EC WOULD CONTACT ARAB COUNTRIES DIRECTLY IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THE PALESTINIAN VIEWPOINT, WHICH MUST DOMINATE ANY SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION.

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