

Jordan Times

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Attas sends message to King

AMMAN (Petra) — South Yemeni President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas has sent a message to His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the situation in South Yemen following the recent bloody events in that country. The message was carried by South Yemen's Minister of Justice Ahmad Salam who arrived here Wednesday evening. He was greeted upon arrival by Justice Minister, Riad Al Shaka'a and a number of other officials.

Crown Prince visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday made an inspection tour of army units of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division. Prince Hassan was briefed by senior officers on the duties and training programmes of the troops and he later watched the launching of "an aerial cable station" which provides information to various army units. He also met with the troops and made a brief speech. Prince Hassan was accompanied on the tour by a number of senior army officers.

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King delivers historic address to nation:

We are unable to continue coordination with the PLO leadership until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterised by commitment, credibility and constancy • Principles and tenets of Feb. 11 accord will continue to embody foundations governing our relations • Things got to a point where the PLO, legitimate rights and territory became one • PLO missed opportunity to represent Palestinians in international conference • We opened up avenues that had been considered closed to Arab and Palestinian brethren • Jordan rejected U.S. suggestion for separate settlement • It is imperative to turn matter over to Palestinian fora in occupied territories and diaspora as well as Arabs • We remain committed to steadfastness of brothers under occupation

Jordan Times Staff Writer

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Wednesday made a historic and comprehensive speech outlining and reviewing Jordan's stand on the Palestinian problem and the Kingdom's repeated efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem and announced that Jordan was terminating joint political moves with the leadership of the PLO towards a negotiated peace with Israel.

Addressing the nation in a speech lasting nearly three-and-a-half hours, broadcast on television and radio, the King said: "We are unable to coordinate politically with the PLO leadership until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterised by commitment, credibility and constancy."

However, the King said, Jordan remained committed to the "principles and tenets" of the Feb. 11, 1985, agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The accord, the King said, will continue to "embody the foundations governing relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples with regard to equality of rights and obligations facing our joint destiny."

The King pointed out that the PLO's refusal to accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 had been the main factor in the collapse of the joint Jordan-PLO move.

The King, giving a step by step detailed explanation of the various stages that Jordanian efforts went through after the signing of the Feb. 11 agreement, said Jordan did not take any unilateral action at any stage. Rather, he said, each and every action that the

Kingdom undertook in the Arab as well as international scenes was after close consultations with the PLO, in conformity with the Feb. 11 accord.

As recent as Jan. 29, the King said, he rejected an American proposal to proceed with peace talks with Israel alongside non-PLO Palestinians. "Our unwavering position was: No separate settlement," the King said.

The total collapse of the joint Jordan-PLO effort came when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in talks with the King last month, maintained his refusal to accept 242 and 338 and also turned down a compromise American formula, the King said. "Hinging on this agreement, of course, was an immediate opening of an American-Palestinian dialogue on the basis of which we would have continued our efforts for convening an international peace conference, to which the PLO would be invited to participate as a representative of the Palestinian people," the King said.

Looking back at the one year that passed since the Feb. 11 accord, and the breakthrough manifested in the American and Israeli

readiness to attend an international conference, the King said: "We have gone through a grueling year of intensive effort and faced a host of obstacles, in many instances exceeding the limits of our endurance. But we succeeded in achieving what had been felt to be impossible."

Pointing out that the Feb. 11 accord was the only practical mechanism offered to implement the 1982 Fez Arab summit resolution, the King expressed regret over the collapse of the effort and said he was "pained by impediments when we were so close to the finishing line."

Elaborating on the course that the peace efforts took in the wake of the Feb. 11 accord, the King referred to a process that Jordan and the PLO had agreed on to arrive at peace talks. The King said the process envisaged a step-by-step procedure involving an initial American dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in which the Palestinian side will be represented by personalities chosen by the PLO. In the next stage, the PLO was to have declared its acceptance of 242 and 338 following which the

U.S. would recognise the PLO and hold a meeting with the organisation on the "issues of a peaceful settlement and the normalisation of relations between them." The final stage, according to the agreed procedure, was an international conference.

Accordingly, the King said, the PLO proposed names as Palestinian delegates to the initial meeting with the U.S. and Jordan relayed the names to Washington. After lengthy talks over who was acceptable to the U.S. and who was not, the U.S. relayed its readiness for such a meeting but raised doubts over whether the PLO was ready to fulfil its part of the bargain — acceptance of 242 and 338, the King said.

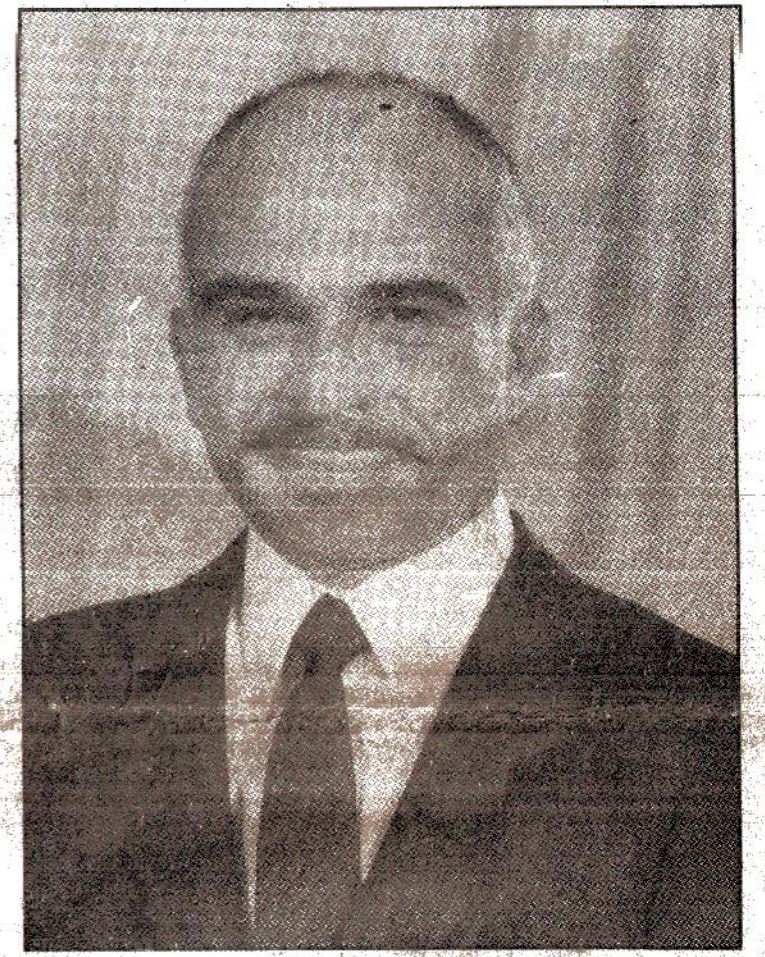
In a meeting held in Amman on Aug. 15, 1985, Mr. Arafat reaffirmed his acceptance of "all steps and arrangements agreed upon between us, including the PLO's readiness to accept" the two resolutions, the King said. Jordan relayed the PLO position to the U.S., and was awaiting the American answer when, in September 1985, Washington said it could not go ahead with the proposed meeting, and the process

was stalled until the King visited the U.S. later that month.

During talks with American officials that followed, the King said, the U.S. agreed that the U.N. Secretary-General issue invitations to an international conference under U.N. auspices and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council. It was also agreed that Resolutions 242 and 338 were to form the basis of the conference and the U.S. insisted on the PLO making public its acceptance of the two resolutions. The King said Jordan, reassured by the Aug. 15 meeting with Mr. Arafat, agreed to the understanding. The arrangement was explained to the PLO upon his return to Amman, the King said. The PLO leadership met subsequently in Baghdad, but acceptance of the resolutions was not forthcoming. At this point, the King said, Jordan had also offered to keep the PLO acceptance of 242 and 338 confidential, limited

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The official translated text of the King's speech appears on pages 5, 6 and 7



Iraq steps up air attacks on Iranian positions, supply lines

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said on Wednesday its warplanes were pounding Iranian positions holding parts of the Fao Peninsula in the southern front and hammering Iranian supply lines and equipment dumps in a bid to dislodge the Iranian troops from the peninsula.

Iraqi jets also hit an Iranian naval base in the northern Gulf and oil installations at Ganaveh, opposite Kharg Island on Iran's Gulf coast, Iraqi military communications said.

Tehran Radio said Iranian troops were pushing further towards an Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr on the Kuwait border.

Iran claims its westward thrust from the disused Iraqi oil port of Fao at the mouth of the Shatt Al Arab waterway has cut Iraq off from the sea and bottled up its navy at Umm Qasr.

But Iraq on Wednesday denied

the claim, saying it was in full control of the northern Gulf. Hamid Lafta, a naval commander at Umm Qasr, told Baghdad Radio his forces were blocking Iran's seaborne supply lines to the Fao Peninsula.

Iraqi commanders said they were making only slow progress in heavy fighting, but said the Iranians were suffering huge losses.

"The fighting has been so fierce that we have had to treat over the corpses of Iranian soldiers," the army newspaper Al Qadisiya quoted one commander in the south as saying.

An Iraqi commander in Basra, Iraq's second city some 40 kilometres north of the battlefield, told reporters meanwhile Iran was massing huge numbers of troops for a new offensive through the Majnoon Islands north of the city.

Iraq says it has recaptured 90 per cent of the man-made islands,

constructed to exploit rich oil reserves under the Huweizeh marshes.

Iraqi aircraft were in action at several Gulf war sectors on Wednesday, including the Iranian oil complex at Ganaveh, after a lull in air activity through bad weather.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said they hit Iranian supply routes, troop positions and equipment dumps with rockets and bombs, concentrating on the Fao Peninsula.

Naval gunners shot down an Iranian F-5 freedom fighter plane in the area on Wednesday and an Iraqi warplane downed another Iranian aircraft used for directing communications, INA said.

Baghdad Radio said that during their numerous sorties the Iraqi aircraft hit Iranian troop concentrations, bridges and other vital installations. These included a naval command centre on the

island of Dara, in the Khor Mousa bay 40 kilometres east of the Shatt Al Arab estuary, and the oil pumping station at Ganaveh, the radio said.

Other targets included army camps at Natikhaweh and Jaldian in the central sector of the border frontline.

All the Iraqi aircraft returned safely, the radio added.

Iraq's Third Army Corps Commander told foreign reporters at his headquarters east of Basra that Iran had massed huge numbers of troops for a new offensive planned through the southern marshes.

Major-General Maher Abed Al Rashid, whose men launched an attack on Majnoon Islands on Friday, added they had freed 90 per cent of the man-made oil rich islands, including the last oil well.

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Murphy: No new word on 242

DOHA (Agencies) — The United States has so far received no word of new proposals for Palestinian acceptance of United Nations resolutions on the Middle East, a senior U.S. official said.

Answering questions from the Qatari press in a television link from Washington Tuesday night, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said:

"We have received no such formulas and, frankly speaking, the vague comments made by various leaderships and representatives of the PLO in our eyes appear to be formulas designed to evade the challenge put to the (Palestine Liberation) Organisation by King Hussein."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said four days ago he had put forward three formulas to Washington for accepting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

He gave no details of the proposals, which he said were discussed with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo.

The PLO leader arrived in Baghdad Tuesday night following his trip to Egypt. The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported his arrival, but said nothing about the purpose of his visit.

In his televised question and answer session with the Qatari press, Mr. Murphy said the peace process was in "a lull" as the various parties pause "for a bit to think where to go next, how to move."

Nevertheless, Mr. Murphy said, "The desire to move ahead, the need to move ahead is recognised as urgent." He said it is difficult to expect a dramatic breakthrough in such a complex situation "where positions of each of the parties are so passionately held."

"We will continue our efforts," Mr. Murphy said, "but the ball is in the region, in the fullest sense of the word. We will play our part

Pitched battles rage in Lebanon as Israeli troops expand search

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Heavy fighting continued between Israeli troops and Lebanese resistance fighters as Israel stepped up its search for two captured Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon on Wednesday and a deadline set by the captors for the death of one of the captives ticked away.

In Tyre, U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said two Lebanese were killed and two wounded in house-to-house searches by Israeli troops sweeping across South Lebanon for the third day in a dragnet for the two captive soldiers.

The casualties occurred in the Muslim village of Haris in the zone policed by the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Goksel reported. The Haris sector is manned by an Irish army battalion.

Goksel said villagers told UNIFIL officials they were shot when commandos ambushed Israeli troops, who "responded with tank fire."

The spokesman said Israeli officers reported the shootout was between commandos and militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The Islamic Resistance Front on Tuesday set a deadline of 1900 GMT Wednesday for an Israeli withdrawal from the south, saying they would otherwise kill one of the prisoners.

The captives, identified as Yossi Fink and Rahamin Alsheikh, both aged 20, were taken by the front in an ambush on Monday.

Their seizure inside an Israeli-declared "border security" strip triggered a drive by thousands of Israeli troops on Lebanese villages outside the frontier zone.

Israel's northern commander Ori Orr said his men would continue their hunt despite the front's ultimatum.

In the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanese security sources told Reuters Israeli forces had expanded their search across a 20

kilometre front, surrounding villages with armoured vehicles before rounding up people for questioning.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri told reporters in Beirut he had been told by his Amal militiamen

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Israeli captive reported killed in Lebanon

LONDON (R) — Radical Islamic rebels Wednesday night said they had executed one of two Israeli soldiers held captive since Monday, Beirut Radio reported. The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said a rebel spokesman had reported the execution in a telephone call to the Beirut office of the Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad. The rebels had threatened to kill both Israeli soldiers unless Israel called off its search for the two men in South Lebanon.

Justice Minister Nabih Berri told reporters in Beirut he had been told by his Amal militiamen

Pressure mounts on Marcos as Aquino resumes campaign

MANILA (Agencies) — President Ferdinand Marcos came under fresh pressure on Wednesday as Corason Aquino, his rival for the Philippine presidency, resumed her campaign to oust him, saying she won the Feb. 7 election.

Mrs. Aquino, who has called for a boycott of banks, newspapers and a brewery managed by pro-Marcos men, took her fight to claim the presidency to the provinces.

She travelled in a motorcade to Angeles city, 80 kilometres north of Manila, as several countries expressed concern at the conduct of the election and two recalled their ambassadors for consultations.

Mr. Marcos, 68, accused by the opposition of winning by fraud and violence, was searching for messages of congratulation from friendly governments but apparently found only one.

The presidential palace gave

prominence to the new Soviet ambassador to Manila, Vadim Shabalim, who presented his credentials on Wednesday and, according to a statement, "congratulated the president for his re-election."

Spain, which ruled the Philippines for 350 years before ceding the country to the United States in 1898, and West Germany recalled their ambassador for consultations.

The British and Australian embassies, and the Dutch on behalf of the European Community, issued expressions of concern at reports of election fraud and violence.

The United States, the closest ally of the Marcos government, has not sent any message of congratulations as President Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib assesses the situation in Manila.

Mr. Marcos said Wednesday he will use his powers "to the limit" to prevent disturbances.

Habre seen in strong position to crush rebels

ABIDJAN (R) — France's swift response to Libya's latest challenge in Chad, combined with Hisense Habre's strengthened political and military position, may encourage the Chadian leader to try to reconquer the rebel-held north of the country, Chadians and Western diplomats here say.

The French government is sending a deterrent force, including warplanes, to Chad following the flare-up in the 2-year-old civil war and a bombing raid against N'djamena airport, in an apparently scaled-down repeat of the 1983 "Operation Manta" (See page 2).

France then deployed some 3,500 men to contain a major Libyan-backed rebel offensive aimed at ousting Mr. Habre and putting former President Goukouni Oueddei back in power.

saved Mr. Habre from collapse, the current French military effort follows a successful counter-attack by Chadian troops which pushed the rebels back to their positions behind the 16th parallel splitting the country into two.

"We did it alone, with no air cover from the French," a visiting Chadian official in Abidjan told Reuters.

The official, who declined to be identified, said as a result Chadian troops' morale was at its highest and Mr. Habre could be tempted to follow up his successful counter-attack with an all-out offensive in the north.

Faya-Largeau, a large oasis some 900 kilometres north of the capital of N'djamena, has been the rebels' main stronghold since they captured the northern half of the country in the summer of 1983 with military support, including air cover, from Libya.

3 Spaniards released in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Three Spanish embassy personnel kidnapped in west Beirut Jan. 17 were freed unharmed by their captors at Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Berri's office on Wednesday.

Reporters called to a hastily arranged news conference saw the three men brought over to Mr. Berri's office by senior security officials of his Shi'ite Amal militia.

The freed hostages were Pedro Sanchez, the embassy security officer, and two Cuban-born Christian brothers, Assad and Gaspar Abdo. Both carry Spanish diplomatic passports.

All three appeared to be unharmed after their 33-day ordeal. Spain's ambassador, Pedro Manuel de Aristegui, was at Mr. Berri's office when the three hostages were brought in.