

SUGGESTED ISRAELI PUBLIC STATEMENT

The invasion against the Government of Jordan of Soviet supplied tanks from Syria, a state which has refused to accept the concept of peace with Israel, poses an intolerable threat to the security of Israel. Therefore, action is being taken to meet this threat. The government of Israel has stated that it could not tolerate any shift of military forces in the Middle East which could threaten the safety of the citizens of Israel. For this reason, Israeli aircraft (and ground force units) are attacking Syrian forces because elements of their forces have invaded Jordan. No further details are available at this time. Our forces will withdraw once Syrian forces are behind the Syrian frontier.

SECRET/NODIS

ACTION REQUIRED IN EVENT ISRAELI STRIKE

1. Brief Congress
2. Guidance for all Posts in Area
  - a. Once decision has been made, inform posts in general terms that it might be wise to take precautionary measures
  - b. As Israeli strike is launched send Flash message to take cover
3. Have our Embassies inform NATO Countries and Headquarters
4. Demarche to Soviets both here and in Moscow
5. Close consultations with British
6. Inform all other Governments re USG position
7. Public Statement
8. USG action at UN Security Council

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASED ON 4/2/82  
by NARA on the recommendation of the NSC  
under provisions of E.O. 12958 RS

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C O P Y

SECRET/EXDIS

Rec'd cy in Sit Room  
'70 Sep 22 AM 1:33

FM SecState, Wash. D. C.

TO AmEmbassy Amman Immediate 6308  
AmEmbassy Tel Aviv 7045

STATE 155203

EXDIS (TREAT AS NODIS)

REF: State 155166

Following is text of questions and answers delivered to Israeli Minister Argov at 10:30 EDT September 21:

QUOTE:

Q. Will the U. S. agree to approach Israel formally in this matter?

A. We have indicated in our conversations our agreement in principle to the operation under discussion. If decisions are taken to conduct such an operation, they should be on the basis of those conversations and the fact that our common interests would be served.

Q. Will the King agree to request our assistance and to undertake to institute methods of communication and coordination between us?

A. We do not know the answer to this question. Israel is aware of the informal exchange of messages between Deputy Prime Minister Allon and the King which we conveyed. With respect to ground operations, the only indication we have of the Jordan attitude on this question was a statement by Zaid Rifai to our Ambassador that Israeli "ground operations are fine in the area as long as they are not here in Jordan." We are seeking clarification on this question from the King. Israeli air strikes have been requested or approved on several occasions by the King.

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Q. How will the U. S. act to prevent Soviet participation or involvement?

A. On September 20 the U. S. Government called upon the Soviet Government to take appropriate steps in Damascus to bring about withdrawal of Syrian Forces from Jordan. Secretary Rogers made a public statement to this effect on September 20. We have and will continue to make clear to the Soviets our support for Israel's security and integrity and its right to live within defensible borders. In the present crisis, the U. S. has augmented the Sixth Fleet; it has also taken other readiness measures. These clearly imply a decision not to permit Soviet intervention against Israel in the conditions under discussion. As for specific measures the U. S. may take to prevent Soviet intervention, these would depend on the circumstances and the situation that exists at the time. We have contingency plans for these eventualities.

Q. Is it understood that U. S. will side with us in the international political arena including the use of the veto in the Security Council on the grounds that the Syrian invasion of Jordan not only violates Jordan's integrity but also threatens Israel's security and therefore entitles Israel to take actions in her defense?

A. We would be prepared to take the position publicly, including in the Security Council, that such action by Israel represented legitimate self-defense since the Syrian invasion of Jordan threatened Israel's security. While we cannot state precisely how we would vote in the Security Council on any particular resolution in the absence of precise knowledge of terms of that resolution, we would be prepared to veto a resolution which condemned Israel for this act of self-defense.

Q. Is it clear that Israel shall not be held responsible for the fate of the hostages?

A. The U. S. shall not hold Israel responsible for the fate of the hostages resulting from Israeli action against Syrian forces in Jordan.

Q. Is it understood that U. S. public statements on all matters pertaining to above questions shall be made on highest levels and not lower than Secretary of State?

A. We agree that major U. S. policy statements on this matter would be made at the highest levels.

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Q. Answers to above questions should be in the form of a secret memorandum of understanding.

A. We believe that the oral answers to the above questions are clear and should not be in the form of a secret memorandum of understanding.

Rogers

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