

NLN-NSC FILES-330-3-4-2

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3.3(b)(1)(6)

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM



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[REDACTED] 7:1



MIDDLE EAST SITREP NO. #5

(0600 EDT, 10 September 1970)

1. (RS) Earlier reporting stated Fedayeen had control of the Intercontinental Hotel; however, US Embassy Amman reports that first contact with the hotel since 1700 EDT on the 9th confirmed that the hotel remains guarded by Jordanian security forces. Red Cross representatives are fearful that an attack by fedayeen on Intercontinental Hotel might be imminent. It appears that the fedayeen are in control of the building directly across the street from the hotel. At 0001 EDT on the 10th, heavy firing broke out in vicinity of the Intercontinental Hotel after a night of sporadic incidents in Amman.
2. (R) The Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine said in a communique that in response to the Red Cross appeal, the PFLP decided to extend the deadline on hijacked aircraft another 72 hours as of 2200 EDT, 9 September.
3. (R) The American Embassy in Amman stated that Gerald Zapoli who was previously reported as kidnapped has not been kidnapped. Apparently defective telephones kept the Embassy and Zapoli out of contact. Sgt. Graham and Jon Stewart are still missing.
4. (S) [REDACTED] that the Syrian army has reinforced the Saiqa organization by sending 150-200 regular army troops, dressed as fedayeen into Jordan with identity cards. These men have been reportedly distributed around Saiqa groups in the Amman and Kerak areas. Jordanian military intelligence is aware of this maneuver and has orders to stop and interrogate any known or suspected Saiqa members.
5. (S) [REDACTED] The USS INDEPENDENCE arrived on station at 33-00N/33-00E at 100230Z.

1 Atch, Map (RS)

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DD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AP4	NIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CB	CIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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APD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VS	STA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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STF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ME	AF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
APV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	P5L	AR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AP2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S&T	NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2DP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CO	MO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CI		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2AS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AP1	FI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2S	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AP7	BK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2L	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AP8	SOO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2K	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AP9	TC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

Per sec. 3.3(b)(1)(6); HZ 12/5/2016
By [Signature] NARA, Date 9/17/2018
NLN10-74/13179 [p. 1 of 8]

[REDACTED]

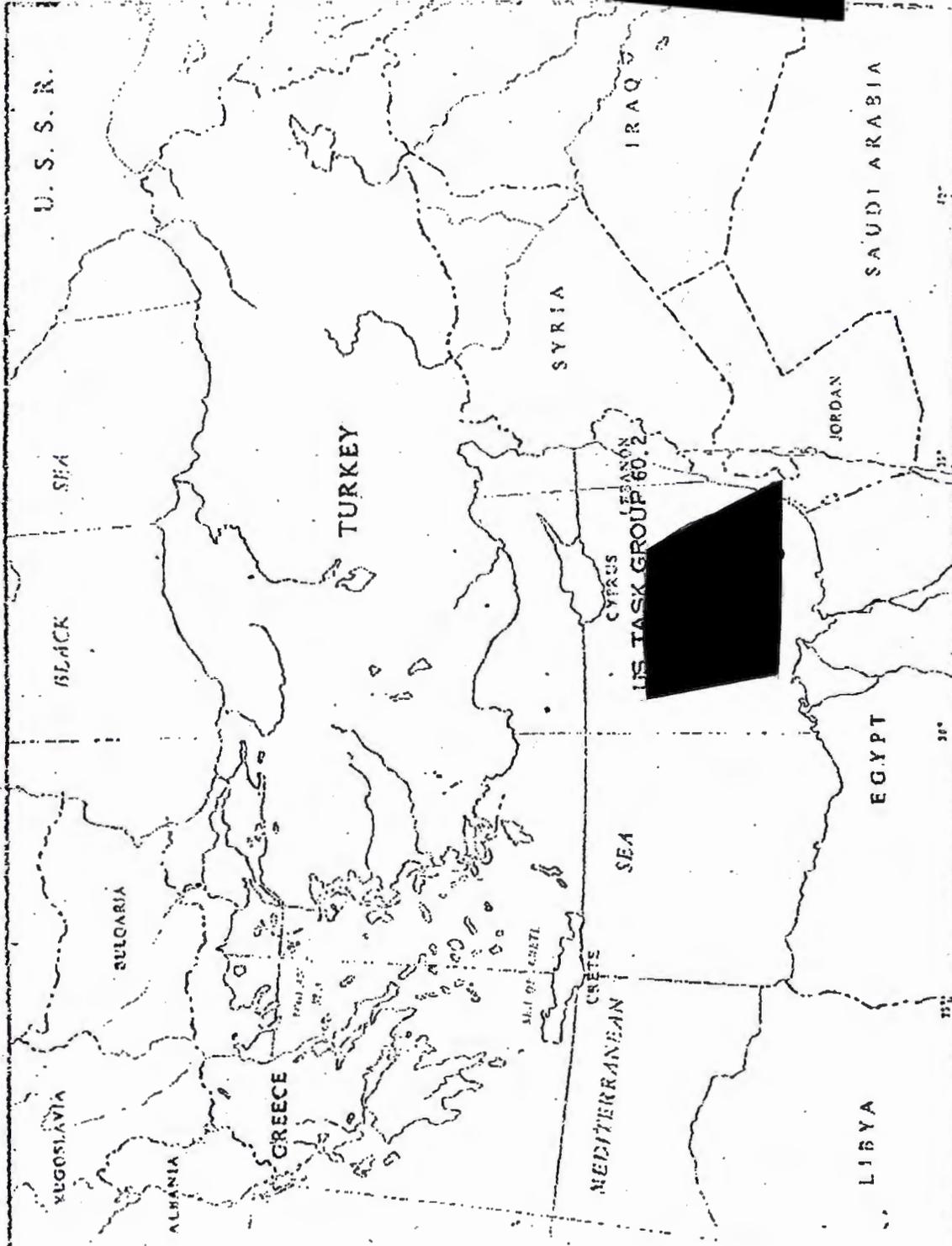
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MIDDLE EAST SITREP NO. #4

(2200 EDT, 9 September 1970)

1. (S) The fedayeen have informed Red Cross representative Rochat that in case of any foreign military action on Jordanian territory, they will immediately blow up all three hijacked aircraft at Dawson's Field with all occupants. Rochat appeared pessimistic and anticipated that negotiations could carry on for a period of "several weeks."

2. (TS) The US Embassy in Amman reported conditions were relatively quiet as of 1430 EDT.

Power had been restored at the Intercontinental Hotel and the morale of guests who were using the dining room and lobby was reported to be reasonably good.

An embassy officer relayed the report to Rochat who did not feel this would materially affect the safety of occupants for the remainder of the night. Some 60 to 70 per cent of the private business/missionary community and wives of third country nationals had been contacted by the embassy and there were no injuries reported among local American residents.

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3. a high level Fatah official remarked on 7 September that it had been decided to hijack one aircraft each day subsequent, apparently, to the hijacking of the four on the 6th. The Palestine Liberation Organization, meanwhile, complained to the UAR today that the Ethiopian Airlines plane on which its delegation was due to fly to Zambia to attend a conference of non-aligned nations would not accept them. Airport officials then prevented them from leaving the transit lounge to book on another flight. Cairo also closed its International Airport temporarily to all traffic during the hijacking of the BOAC transport to Jordan. Runways were blockaded to prevent that aircraft's landing there.

4. (S) British, Swiss, and West German diplomats assured Tel Aviv today that their governments were insisting that all hostages be released at the same time. Israeli public opinion, meanwhile, appeared to be increasingly angry at Amman's impotence to secure the release of the hijacked passengers.

5. (S/NFD) There have been no significant changes in the disposition of Soviet ships in the Mediterranean.

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MIDDLE EAST SITREP NO. 3

(1800 EDT, 9 SEP 70)

1. According to ANEMBASSY Amman at 2000 local Embassy Office (Aweifel) spoke by telephone with ICRC representative Rochat who reported following:
 - a. As of this hour passengers on all three aircraft safe.
 - b. ICRC medical team permanently on site.
 - c. Rochat described situation as "extremely serious". He hopes that a clear position will emerge from PFLP side by tomorrow morning although he considers demands to remain "extremely tough".
 - d. Re deadline: Deadline now postponed with no specific expiration, negotiations are now considered to be open as far as time is concerned and Rochat anticipates very long negotiating process.
 - e. Rochat expects to have "very early" appointment with responsible Palestinians tomorrow morning.
 - f. Rochat has requested second plane with unspecified supplies from ICRC, he intends to keep present ICRC plane at his disposal in Amman.
 - g. BOAC passengers number 145 including 24 unaccompanied children.
2. Rochat stated his appreciation for continuing contact and noted that he may have reason to call on USG for unspecified support on short notice.
3. Meeting between Rochat and representatives of airlines companies and western diplomatic missions, (Amman 4471) cancelled for tonight.

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM



CURRENT OPERATIONS OFFICE
(DIAAP-2)

'70 SEP 9 4i



DIA SPOT-REPORT

DATE: 9 September 1970

TIME: 1540 EDT

SUBJECT: Jordanian Situation

REFERENCE: EMB BEIRUT 7490 (U); EMB AMMAN 4498 (U); EMB LONDON 7156 (C);
3/0/[REDACTED]/T305-70 [REDACTED]; 3/0/[REDACTED]/R34-70 [REDACTED]

1. (S) Jordanian Chief of Staff Haditha assumed full powers under King Hussein on 9 September. He ordered an immediate cease-fire between the army and the fedayeen after fighting broke out in Amman and other areas. The fedayeen have hijacked another transport -- this time a BOAC VC-10 with as many as 114 persons aboard -- to Dawson's field.
2. (S) Extremely heavy firing broke out again in Amman at about 0900 EDT. There was considerable small arms and later mortar fire. The army GHQ building was hit and one mortar round landed 100 meters east of the US Embassy. Later, the British reported that heavy firing was occurring in the direction of the US Embassy. London has lost contact with its embassy in Amman and is most disturbed over the situation there. The British evacuation machinery has been alerted.
3. [REDACTED] heavy fire was renewed in Irbid this morning. Fighting apparently is also taking place in other areas of Jordan.
4. [REDACTED] The BOAC transport was hijacked on its leg from Bahrain to Beirut. It landed at Beirut, refueled, took on one commando and left at

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0835 EDT. It has joined the Swissair and TWA transports at Dawson's landing which the fedayeen are now calling "revolution airfield" or "liberation airfield".

5. No movement of Iraqi forces has been noted and Jordanian units have been alerted to report immediately any Iraqi military activity.

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- JCS (ACSAN) Rm 10 321
- ARPA (Dr. Rechten)

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SILAS H. PUGH, JR.
DIAAP-5A1
DIAAP-241

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MIDDLE EAST SITREP NO. 1

(0400 EDT, 9 SEP 70)

General

(S) In view of the uncertain status of hostages in two hijacked airliners in Jordan and tensions there, [REDACTED]

Jordan

(S) The risks of an army-fedayeen confrontation have increased although King Hussein is still trying to effect a compromise. The fedayeen have apparently repudiated the 8 September cease-fire agreement with the Jordanian government as a result of heavy fighting in Irbid. The agreement had called for a pull-back of troops from Amman and the removal of all armed fedayeen personnel. Military demonstrations were banned. A joint fedayeen-government committee was to supervise the agreement.

(S) [REDACTED] the official Jordanian security forces were not exercising control. There was sporadic firing of small arms with some sniper fire being aimed at the US Embassy. The fedayeen continued to set up roadblocks and check points including one near the Ambassador's residence. [REDACTED] the fighting in other towns was the result of "tribal disturbance".

(S) [REDACTED] the last ten days vacillation and temporizing on the part of the Jordanian government have had a deleterious and demoralizing effect on the Jordanian army. [REDACTED] the army will take the initiative against the fedayeen or begin to disintegrate into a "typical Arab political soldier organization".

(S) US Staff Sergeant Graham, who has been missing since 5 September and is believed to have been captured by the fedayeen, was reported by Jordanian officials to be at Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) headquarters.

(S) [REDACTED] the PFLP is determined to sabotage the Arab-Israeli peace talks with plans to

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implement a series of actions. These plans include the destruction of US-owned installations in the Middle East and the kidnapping of selected US and Jordanian officials. With the successful hijacking of airliners in what was apparently a coordinated maneuver, it is entirely possible that at least some of these plans could be carried out as well as attempted assassinations of Jordanian leaders, including King Hussein.

(S) International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) representative Rochat was not optimistic following his first contacts with the PFLP. He is trying to obtain the release of the 188 hostages of the total of 310 persons from the hijacked TWA and Swissair aircraft. Rochat is attempting to negotiate a single multinational solution but West Germany is still considering a unilateral approach. The PFLP has not made special demands on the US in spite of rumors that that they had requested Sirhan Sirhan's release. Sirhan's mother, who was en route to Jordan, was prevented from leaving the US as an alien whose departure would be prejudicial to US interests.

Egyptian Position

(S, INF/CR) An Egyptian newspaper has deplored the hijackings because they cause a grievous loss of public opinion.

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[REDACTED] at least some UAR units are on a high state of alert, presumably because of concern over possible action by Israel, following its decision to suspend the peace talks. Press reports from Cairo also report on the Egyptian alert.

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