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ROME ALSO FOR VATICAN AND FOR MFO CLUVERIUS DOD/ISA FOR NESA CINCEUR FOR POLAD CINCUSNAVEUR FOR INTAF NSC FOR RODMAN NSA FOR CHIEF G GROUP OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

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ARAB STATES: ACCEPTANCE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

1. CONVENES IN NOVEMBER AND DECLARES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, AS NOW APPEARS LIKELY, MOST ARAB STATES WILL ANNOUNCE THEIR SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH EGYPT, JORDAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA HAVE RESERVATIONS THAT SUCH A STATE IS WORKABLE, OR DESIRABLE, THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO APPEAR LESS THAN FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

EGYPT

2. PRESIDENT MUBARAK WOULD PREFER THAT A PALESTINIAN ENTITY BE ESTABLISHED IN CONFEDERATION WITH

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JORDAN. BUT THE SIGNALS ARE CLEAR THAT EGYPT WILL RECOGNIZE WHATEVER MANIFESTATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE THE PNC MAY ANNOUNCE--INCLUDING A PALESTINIAN STATE. FAILING TO DO SO WOULD NOT ONLY PUT MUBARAK OUT OF STEP WITH KEY ARAB ALLIES, BUT WITH HIS OWN POPULATION, WHICH IS LIKELY TO VOICE STRONG SUPPORT.

3: FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL MEGUID SAID ON OCTOBER 17 THAT THE UN PARTITION RESOLUTION OF 1947 (RESOLUTION 181) SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE "BIRTH CERTIFICATE" OF A PALESTINIAN STATE AS WELL AS OF ISRAEL.

4. **EXAMPLE 1** IN THE WAKE OF JORDAN'S DISENGAGEMENT FROM THE WEST BANK, MUBARAK SAID AS EARLY AS AUGUST 30 THAT EGYPT WOULD AGREE TO AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE BASED ON "WISDOM AND ACCURATE CONSIDERATIONS." PLO CHIEF



ARAFAT APPEARS TO HAVE GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO CONSULT MUBARAK ON PLO STRATEGY: ARAFAT PROBABLY IS COUNTING ON THE EGYPTIAN LEADER TO HELP OBTAIN MORE FAVORABLE US AND EUROPEAN REACTIONS.

MUBARAK HAS ARGUED THAT THE PLO MUST 5.1 TAILOR ITS STATEMENTS TO US AND ISRAELI AUDIENCES AND WAIT UNTIL THE TENSE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD IN BOTH COUNTRIES HAS PASSED. PUTTING OFF THE PNC UNTIL MID-NOVEMBER AND PERHAPS MENTIONING UN RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 MIGHT REPRESENT THE PLO'S BEST EFFORT TO MEET THOSE CONDITIONS.

JORDAN -------

KING HUSSEIN HAS PLEDGED TO ACCEPT 6. WHATEVER DECLARATION THE PLO DECIDES TO MAKE ABOUT A PALESTINIAN STATE, A POSITION FOREIGN MINISTER AL-MASRI



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REAFFIRMED IN AN OCTOBER 15 INTERVIEW. WITH A LARGE PALESTINIAN POPULATION ON THE EAST BANK, AND HAVING PUBLICLY HANDED OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WEST BANK TO THE PLO, THERE IS LITTLE ELSE FOR HUSSEIN TO DO.

THE PRIVATE JORDANIAN REACTION IS LIKELY 7. 🖌 TO BE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC. IN AN OCTOBER 11 MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS SUDDARTH AND PICKERING, PRIME MINISTER RIFA'I SAID THAT DECLARING AN INDEPENDENT STATE BASED ON RESOLUTION 181 REPRESENTED A "MIDDLE GROUND" FOR ARAFAT AND WOULD DO NOTHING TO MOVE THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE FORWARD.

........... SAUDI ARABIA ----,---,--

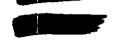
8. THE SAUDIS WILL RECOGNIZE A PALESTINIAN STATE PROMPTLY: THEY ARE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL ALLIES OF ARAFAT'S MAINSTREAM PLO, AND A SO ITS MOST RELIABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORTER. AS A KEY ARAB STATE AND ISLAMIC LEADER. SAUDI ARABIA COULD NOT AFORD TO BE SEEN HOLDING BACK FROM SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AND THE UPRISING. IN ANY CASE, THE VAGUE DECLARATION THE PLO APPEARS TO HAVE IN MIND WOULD NOT COMMIT THE SAUDIS TO ANY COURSE OF ACTION OTHER THAN A PUBLIC SHOW OF SUPPORT.



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SYRIA

9. DESCRIPTION OF STATURE, PRESIDENT ASSAD DOES NOT FAVOR



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CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. ALSO, THE SYRIANS ARE CONCERNED LEST THE PLO COUPLE A DECLARATION WITH SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL; A RECENT EDITORIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS ARGUED THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO CANCELING THE PALESTINE NATIONAL CHARTER. SHULTZ

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