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INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 R

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Date: AUG 27 2018

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ANEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

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~~E.O. 12958, DECL. OADR~~

TAGS: PREL. MASS. JO. US.
SUBJECT: JLP - LETTER TO KING HUSSEIN FROM PRES. REAGAN

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRES. REAGAN TO KING HUSSEIN.

BEGIN TEXT: YOUR MAJESTY:

I WRITE CONCERNING THE INCOMPLETE PROGRESS ON OUR JOINT LOGISTICS PLANNING FOR GULF CONTINGENCIES. WE HAVE SHARED A NUMBER OF SETBACKS OVER THE YEARS. OUR

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FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL TRUST, AND DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE, COME WHAT MAY, HAVE NOT FALTERED. NOR WILL THEY NOW. I CONTINUE TO BE CONVINCED THAT THIS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM SERVES THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND THAT WE SHOULD PERSEVERE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

WE HAVE ALREADY WON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT THROUGH THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS. I HAVE RECENTLY REAFFIRMED TO THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE MY

DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED IN OBTAINING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE FUNDING OF THIS PROJECT THIS FISCAL YEAR, AND WE WILL SEEK THAT APPROVAL WHEN CONGRESS RESUMES IN JANUARY.

TO BE SUCCESSFUL, OUR APPROACH TO THE CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY PLANNED. WE ARE BOTH AWARE OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT WHICH DAMAGING MISINFORMATION, EXAGGERATION, AND PARTIAL LEAKS HAD WITH THE PUBLIC AND CERTAIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THE RESULT, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN THAT THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF OUR COOPERATION AND VARIOUS VERSIONS OF ITS DETAILS ARE NOW IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. AS AMBASSADOR VIETS CAN TELL YOU FROM HIS MANY HOURS OF BRIEFINGS LAST SUMMER, THE PROGRAM, WHEN PROPERLY PRESENTED, IS A PERSUASIVE ONE, EVEN TO THOSE WHO ARE INCLINED TO BE SKEPTICAL. IT IS, THEREFORE, MY JUDGMENT THAT IN ORDER TO BE IN THE STRONGEST POSITION TO WIN THE CONGRESS' APPROVAL IN JANUARY AND OBTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDING, THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE PUBLIC AND DEFEND IN PUBLIC THE ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. YOUR OWN PUBLIC POSTURE AND THE FINE STATEMENT ISSUED BY GENERAL BIN SHAKIR RE USEFUL MODELS FOR PUBLIC APPROACHES, AND WE WOULD INTEND FULLY TO

MAINTAIN THE SPIRIT OF DIGNITY AND HONOR WHICH YOU HAVE OBSERVED.

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THE POINT AND MAIN THRUST OF OUR PRESENTATIONS WOULD BE TO EMPHASIZE THAT OUR COOPERATION IS A MUTUALLY RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIP DESIGNED TO PROTECT OUR SHARED INTERESTS IN THE STABILITY OF THE GULF REGION AND PERMIT A PROMPT COORDINATED, AND EFFICIENT RESPONSE TO OUR FRIENDS' REQUESTS. SHOULD THEY EVER BE IN NEED OF HELP, WE WILL MAINTAIN THAT THE SECRECY OF THIS COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE SENSITIVITIES AND NEED FOR DISCRETION IN THE VERY REGION WE WANT TO PROTECT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS THAT THIS PROGRAM IS IN THE US NATIONAL INTEREST AND IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF ALL OUR FRIENDS IN THE REGION. I HOPE THIS APPROACH WILL BE AGREEABLE TO YOU. WE WOULD PLAN, WITH YOUR CONSENT, TO DISCUSS WITH GENERAL BIN SHAKER WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON, THE DETAILS OF HOW WE WOULD PLAN TO MANAGE THE PUBLIC ASPECTS OF OUR EFFORTS WITH THE CONGRESS IN JANUARY.

I AM CONFIDENT WE WILL PREVAIL OVER THESE SETBACKS, MY FRIEND. DICK VIETS WILL BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU AS WE PROCEED. SINCERELY, RONALD REAGAN

END TEXT. DAM

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