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JORDAN: TALKING POINTS FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S EXPANDED MEETING
WITH KING ABDULLAH

Counterterrorism:

- We appreciate Jordan's superb cooperation on counterterrorism
  issues. Jordan's contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom
  set an example and are a tribute to your courageous leadership.

- While our initial focus has been on Usama Bin Laden and his
  network, our longer-term intention remains to go after all
  terrorist groups with a global reach.

- We recognize this is an extremely complicated issue with many
  different dimensions and no quick solutions. Our approach will
  be comprehensive, careful and methodical.

Middle East Peace Process:

- We intend to remain engaged and will send Zinni back when
  such a mission can be effective.

- We understand the negative consequences for Jordan of
  continuing violence between Israel and the Palestinians.
  Our interests are also at stake.
Iraq:

- Saddam Hussein is a threat to U.S. and regional interests, as well as to the Iraqi people. We are determined to address that threat and are seriously considering various options.

- We have been working to make multilateral controls effective; have insisted Iraq must accept the unconditional return of UN weapons inspectors.

- If a multilateral approach is ineffective, we will have to look to other ways to protect our interests.

- We will keep in mind Jordan's concerns and vulnerability, and will remain in close touch as the situation unfolds in the coming months.

Economic Assistance/Debt Relief:

- Working on increased economic and military assistance for FY 2002, importance of working with IMF and advocacy with G-7 creditors on debt rescheduling. Encourage continued economic reforms.

- Proud of FTA and committed to expanding bilateral economic relationship.
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P: TLenderking ok
D: RGilchrist ok
E: SSchrage info
EB/OMA: KReider ok
PM/RSAT: RMeinhart ok
S/CT: ACasper ok
S/P: AErdmann ok
Treasu ry: LMcdonald ok
S/RPP: JJones ok
Jordan: Vice President's Expanded Meeting
With King Abdullah

I. Key Objectives

- **Counterterrorism:** Express appreciation for Jordan’s strong support for the counterterrorism effort and review our thinking on next steps in Afghanistan and beyond.

- **MEPP:** Emphasize our intention to remain engaged in Middle East peace efforts and outline our view on how best to move forward.

- **Iraq:** Assure the King that as we weigh our options regarding Iraq, we will be sensitive to Jordan’s concerns.

- **Assistance:** Indicate support for increased economic and military assistance for Jordan, including prospects for a 2002 supplemental.

- **Economic Reforms:** Applaud continued efforts by the King on economic reforms.

- **Encourage continued close cooperation to ensure effective Free Trade Agreement (FTA) implementation.**

II. Background

In the context of current Middle East troubles, Jordan’s role as a key Arab moderate and steadfast ally in our campaign against international terrorism is more important than ever.
The King is leaving shortly after your meeting for the Monterrey Financing for Development Conference, where he hopes to meet with the President and compare notes on regional issues prior to the March 27-28 Arab League Summit in Beirut.

your visit

is an opportunity for us to demonstrate our continued strong support for Jordan, the King, and the moderate policies he is pursuing.

Support for the War on Terrorism

Jordan's commitment to participate in U.S.-led coalition efforts in Afghanistan, the first Arab country to do so, has been consistent and strong.

Middle East Peace Negotiations
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Iraq

U.S. Assistance to Jordan

Although no final decision has been made, the State Department supports increasing assistance for Jordan as part of a FY 2002 supplemental.

The U.S. has been supportive of Jordan's efforts to reschedule its debt.

An increase in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) is also being considered as part of the supplemental process, and if made
available would be used for increased border security and counterterrorism. The Administration has also requested an increase to $198 million in FY 2003, up from the current $75 million in FY 2002.

U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) went into effect on December 17, 2001. It has generated a great deal of excitement within the business community in Jordan and there is an active private sector-led initiative to execute a strategy to implement the FTA. While it is too soon to quantify the impact on the Jordanian economy, there is already anecdotal evidence that the agreement is stimulating bilateral trade. USAID has begun programs to enhance the commercial competitiveness of Jordanian exporters to help them take advantage of the FTA.