

KING HUSSEIN: To a certain extent I think agreement unfortunately even amongst the Arab countries themselves at one stage was a problem, on this particular project and that is what, plus the fact that there were some difficulties with Israel, caused it to come to an abrupt stop.

ON ARAB FEDERATION

MR. PIERPOINT: Your Majesty, isn't it true that in the long run the real answers to the economic problems of your country, as well as of some of the other countries of the Middle East might be an Arab federation along the lines of the United Arab Republic?

KING HUSSEIN: It is the hope of every Arab that one day we will all be united in a federation or in any other way, but in such a way that individual Arab countries could stand on an equal basis to face their responsibilities and to build their future.

NASSER PINPOINTED

MR. PIERPOINT: Pardon me. You mention the Communists in the Middle East exploiting the situation. I would like to hear your opinion on what is going on in Iraq now.

KING HUSSEIN: On this particular question I would like to say that in studying the progress the Communists have made in the Arab world, one should not deal with the recent Iraqi events alone and regard them as a separate issue, but Communist penetration into the Arab homeland has started since quite some time with the collaboration of some Arab states and Soviets and arms deals, and other methods -- we were for example, for the last two years, sensing this danger in Jordan and warning the Arabs about it and fighting the threat of Communism in our own country and we were very very severely attacked to such a point that every attempt was made to try to destroy Jordan. However, some of those people who used to attack us in the past seem to be repeating what we used to say in the past and so ...

MR. TAYLOR: Well, Your Majesty, you speak of arms deals to other Arab states, presumably you mean Syria and Egypt. Will -- now that Colonel Nasser is himself speaking out against Communism, do you anticipate closer relations perhaps or reconciliation between yourself and him and between your country and the United Arab Republic?

KING HUSSEIN: As far as Jordan is concerned, we always wish that we could have the best of friendly terms with all Arab states, but we cannot agree to follow the leadership of anyone.

MR. LAWRENCE: Well, Your Majesty, on that very point, do you have the feeling that Colonel Nasser's outcries against Communism reflect some thwarted ambitions, insofar as Iraq is concerned, or that they really reflect some fear of his that Communism is on the move in the Middle East, and he had better close some doors he himself helped to open?

KING HUSSEIN: Well, I hope that it is the second of the two that you have mentioned, but if that was the case, then why did he cause us so much trouble for such a long time?