



Background Guide
Princeton Interactive Crisis Simulation 2006

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Chair: Anas Sarhan '08
Director: Arzu Komili '08



International Relations Council
Princeton University



Dear Ministers,

Assalamu 'alaykum fellow citizens.

Welcome to Princeton Interactive Crisis Simulation. This year's crisis simulation focuses on the Middle East, an issue that has frequented the headlines of every major news organization for the past several years. The time has finally come for us to explore our own solutions to the multiple crises, and duly experience one of the most intense political struggles of our time.

We have been chosen to represent the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a country with little known about it other than the fact that it borders both Israel and Iraq. It lies between the two main political controversies of the region, and has managed to stay quiet for quite some time. This country's peace-seeking and non-aggressive stance is ours for the changing, if we so desire. So, consider what you think you would do if you were King Abdullah II. However, keep in mind that the Al-Hussein monarchs have managed to guide their beloved country through several decades of strife with very little disruption of their established peace.

I'm Anas Sarhan, the chair of the Jordanian Committee. I will be playing the role of His Royal Highness King Abdullah II Al-Hussein. You'll find it convenient, and maybe even amusing, that I am in fact a Jordanian citizen in reality, and speak Arabic. My parents were both born in Palestine, or what is now Israel, and were granted refuge in Jordan along with their parents and siblings. From there, they were granted citizenship and studied at the University of Jordan, where they met. I have lived in the United States or the Middle East for my entire life, but made it back to Jordan every summer. I spent my last two years of high school in Jordan, graduated from there, and now I'm a sophomore at Princeton University. This will be my fourth college conference, and my second time chairing (I was the president of Rwanda last year).

We look forward to meeting all of you in person, and are very excited to find out what future you have in mind for our beloved country. Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any concerns, or would just like to introduce yourself.

Best Regards,

Anas Sarhan '08
Chair, PICSim '06
asarhan@princeton.edu



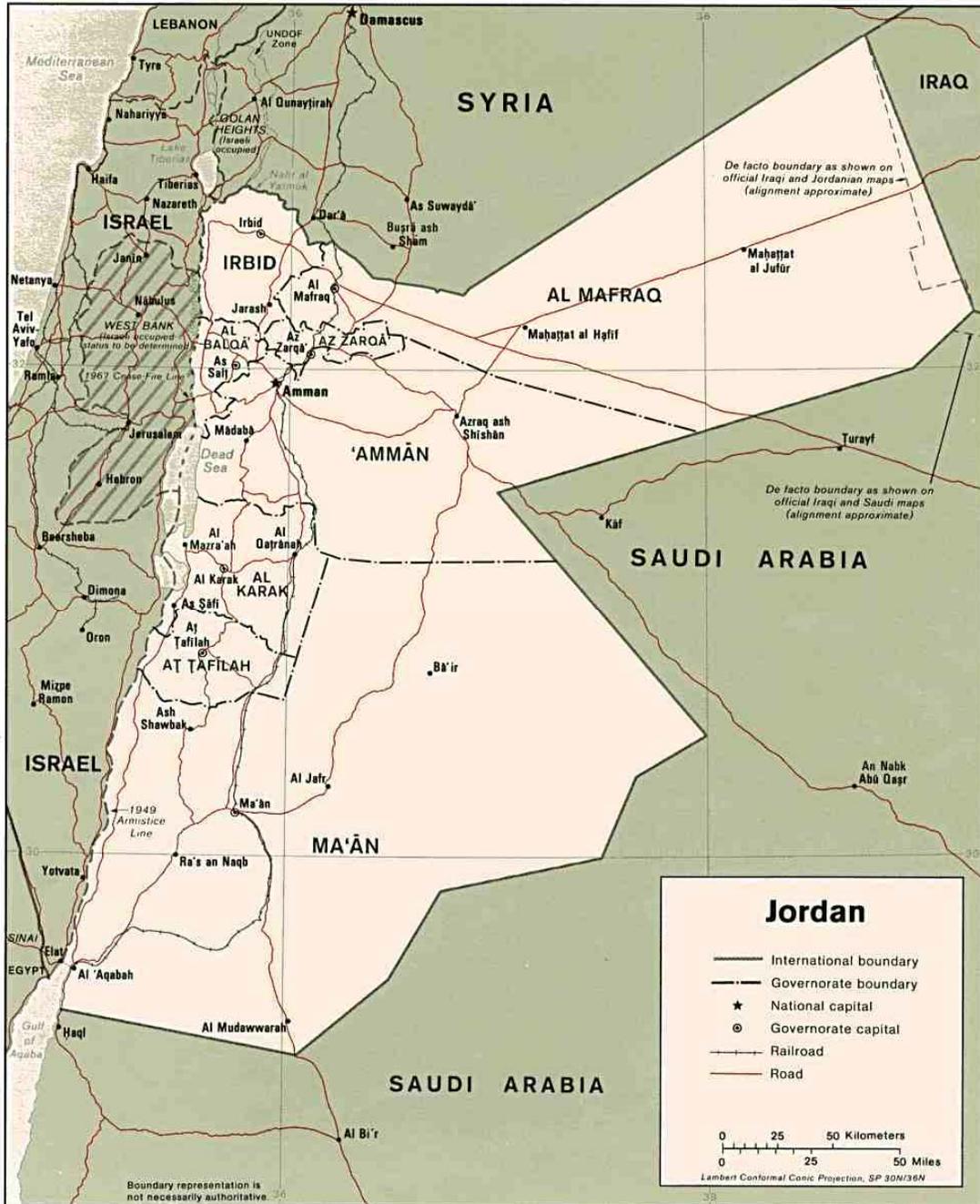
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Map of Jordan

المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية



Base 801761 (A05803) 10-91



A Brief Historical Background

Jordan was first inhabited by Semitic Amorites around 2000 B.C., when they settled around the Jordan River (archaic: Canaan). The land went through several invasions and settlements before becoming the known autonomous nation today, including Hittites, Egyptians, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arab Muslims, Christian Crusaders, Mameluks, Ottoman Turks, and, finally, the British.

I. INDEPENDENCE

The history of Jordan relevant to our topics of discussion begins at the turn of the century, where Transjordan existed as a province of the Ottoman Empire. At the start of the First World War, The Ottoman Empire entered into the conflict allied with the Central Powers. This proved to be a strategic fault on the part of the Ottomans, and the Empire dissolved shortly after the Central Powers' defeat. The League of Nations awarded the territories of Palestine and Transjordan (present-day Jordan, Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem) to British in the form of a mandate. In 1922, the British divided the mandate by creating a semi-autonomous Emirate of Transjordan, while continuing the administration of Palestine by a British High Commissioner. The mandate over the region was absolved on May 22, 1946, and the Hashemite Kingdom of

Transjordan gained independence on May 25. The Kingdom's special defense treaty relationship with the United Kingdom ended in 1957.

II. BEGINNINGS OF CONFLICT

The first sign of serious international conflict that would, in subsequent years, make the Middle East the subject of many international peace discussions and the core of religious controversy arose shortly after World War II with the plans to establish an autonomous Israeli state in Palestine. In fact, Jordan was one of the several Arab nations that moved to assist Palestinian nationals in May 1948, and engaged in warfare with the newly founded state. An armistice was signed between the Israelis and the Arab nations on April 3, 1949. Jordan gained control of the West Bank during these peace talks, and the armistice provided that the demarcation lines were not to be subject to future settlements (King Abdullah I renamed the Kingdom of Transjordan to the Kingdom of Jordan to account for this newly acquired territory in 1950). The United States, although acknowledging Jordanian administration over the annexed Palestinian lands, declared that ultimate sovereignty was subject to future peace talks.

III. KING HUSSEIN BIN TALAL

King Abdullah I was assassinated in Jerusalem in July 1951. His son, King

Talal, ascended to power immediately, but was forced to abdicate a short year later, due to medical conditions (he was a schizophrenic). King Talal's son, the well-known late King Hussein bin Talal, replaced his father, and ruled for the remainder of the century (until he succumbed to cancer in February 1999). King Hussein was widely praised as the best monarch the Middle East has seen, and his funeral was a five-day mourning event that the entire international community attended to pay their respects to the great king. During his almost five decades of reign, Jordan saw great political and economic advancement.

IV. CONTINUED CONFLICT

King Hussein, although more rational and intelligent than his predecessors, was no less adamant in his stance against Israeli occupation of Palestine. Sensing a threat brought upon by Israeli occupation of the Kingdom's neighbor, Hussein signed a mutual defense pact with Egypt in 1967, which was followed immediately in June by the first Arab-Israeli war (between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq). The Arab states did not succeed, and Israel claimed the entire West Bank, and occupied Jerusalem. In 1988, Jordan withdrew all claims to the region, but retained an administrative role in Jerusalem pending future treaties. In fact, in 1994, the Jordanian treaty with Israel allowed for Jordan to play a continuous administrative role in the Muslim holy sites of Jerusalem (the United States' stance on this issue is that it acknowledges that the West Bank and Jerusalem are occupied by Israel, and administrative status in the region should be determined by mutual agreement amongst the concerned parties based on

UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338).

Jordan's determination to find peace can be exemplified the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. During this conflict, no conflict occurred along the Jordanian border with Israel. However, Jordan sent a brigade to Syria to aid the country in fending off Israeli occupation. Jordan also did not participate in the Gulf War of 1990-91. In 1991, Jordan entered into peace negotiations with Israel alongside Syria, Lebanon, and Palestinian representatives, which were mediated by the United States and Russia. Jordan agreed to an end of hostilities with Israel on July 25, 1994 (please refer to the Washington Declaration for details), and the peace process was concluded on October 26 1994. Ever since the instigation of conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis in September 2000, King Abdullah II and his government offered their good offices to both parties.

V. INTERNAL CONFLICT

Unfortunately, Jordan's international conflicts and negotiations led to dissent within its own borders. Needless to say, the Palestinian refugee population in Jordan increased dramatically during the war of 1967 (700,000 to 1,000,000 within a matter of days). Palestinian resistance elements in Jordan, known as *fedayeen* (Arabic for rebels, similar to *intifada*, meaning rebellion), gained power and importance within the country, and open fighting broke out in June 1970. Jordan placed relatively little importance to this violence at first, and attempted to seek a peaceful solution. However, in September, the *fedayeen* hijacked and destroyed three airline carriers west of Amman, and the government began

using extreme force against the rebels. The international community grew more and more concerned, which led to a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo to find a peaceful solution. A cease-fire was signed, but sporadic fighting continued afterward. Finally, the government won a decisive victory against the *fedayeen*, and expelled them from the country on September 22, 1971.

From that point on, Jordan has enjoyed internal security, and its relatively neutral stance on the foreign issues of the region has allowed it to enjoy certain stability in a rather volatile region in recent years. However, the security maintained also is due to a rather stiff hand the government has used with regards to dealing with insurgents. For example, a mass

biological attack of mass destruction was planned in Jordan during May 2004, targeting the Jordanian Intelligence Headquarters, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the residences of several government officials. Due to successful intelligence operations, the attack was foiled, and several terrorist cells eradicated. Jordanian Intelligence (known as *mukhabarat*), in fact, is widely ranked amongst the top ten government intelligence agencies in the world (of course, it trails the CIA, the Israeli Mossad, and the British MI5).

Despite these insurgent operations, which were duly eliminated, Jordan has had a comfortable level of political steadiness for several decades now, which has allowed for economic growth and development.



Current Government

The current government of Jordan is a constitutional monarchy headed by His Royal Highness King Abdullah II (the current crown prince is His Highness Prince Hussein, King Abdullah II's son). The Executive branch is headed by Prime Minister Badran, who is appointed by the king, and in turn appoints the Cabinet with the king's discretion. This branch of government involves no elections; all positions are either hereditary or appointed.

The legislative branch is a bicameral National Assembly (Majlis al-'Umma), consisting of the Senate (House of Notables, or Majlis al-Ayan) and the House of Representatives (House of Deputies, or Majlis al-Nuwwab). The fifty-five seats of the Senate are appointed by the monarch, but the one hundred and ten seats of the House of Representatives are open to popular elections (six seats reserved for women). Surprisingly, political parties do not dominate these elections, and 89.6% of the seats are held by

independents (this may be due to the fact that political parties were outlawed until 1992). The last elections took place in 2003, after a two-year delay by King Abdullah II (possibly due to the fact that he ascended to power only two years prior to the scheduled elections).

The judicial branch of the Jordanian government is headed by the Court of Cassation, which answers to the

Supreme Court (the court of final appeal). The legal system is based on Islamic law and French codes. It is noteworthy that Jordan has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.

The Jordanian constitution was introduced on January 1, 1952, and has undergone amendment three times since (1974, 1976, and 1984).



Neighboring Countries and Internal Conflict

Surprisingly, Jordan being located in a region accepted to be politically volatile, the government faces little opposition, internationally and internally. The headway gained with its resolution to the Israeli conflict has deemed Jordan honorable in the eyes of the international community, and its ability to keep the large refugee population satisfied with its actions (which clearly oppose their interests) is nothing short of praiseworthy. The refugee population's obedience is due in large part to two reasons: (1) the Jordanian government has been fair in granting the refugees respectable status in Jordanian society, and (2) the severe actions taken by the government against the *fedayeen* has shown the masses what dire consequences await any attempt to upset internal peace and security. Terrorist cells in Jordan in particular have had trouble gaining support, probably due to

the approval and loyalty of the governed to the monarchy and its establishments. Since the 1967 war with Israel, the Palestinian refugee population in Jordan (aided by UNRWA) has risen to an estimated 1,740,170 (2004 est.).

Jordan has maintained a neutrally friendly relationship with most of its neighboring countries. Saudi Arabia is Jordan's number-one importer, and the Gulf nations in general have taken a greater interest in Jordan ever since investment prospects in the country have improved.

More than eighteen percent of Jordanian exports find their way to Iraq, who is one of Jordan's biggest exports, only second to the United States. Here, Jordan's friendly neutrality is observed at its clearest: Jordan associates economically with Iraq (and had rather fluid borders with it before Iraq's entry into years of conflict with western

nations), but observes strict neutrality in the occurrence of armed conflict that does not involve it.

The Jordanian relationship with Syria is slightly more complex. Although Jordan defied its usual neutrality by sending a brigade to aid Syrian troops during the Israeli invasion of Syria, Syria has proven to be Jordan's most suspicious ally. Its rather fundamentalist government has clearly shown its support for the Palestinian people against the Jordanian government; during the *fedayeen* uprising and subsequent military action against the insurgents, Syria assembled several tanks along the Jordanian border with intent to aid the *fedayeen* (the tanks were forced to withdraw before any military action was taken). Until recently, Syria and Jordan disagreed on their border. In 2004, an agreement settled this border dispute pending demarcation.

Egypt has proven to be one of Jordan's most useful Arab allies, in the sense that they share similar interests in

the peace process with Israel, and have both made significant headway with their non-Arab neighbor. Unfortunately, the western world has recently targeted the Mubarak regime for corruption. Egypt has not seen a fair democratic election for several decades. Fortunately, Mubarak is buckling under western pressure, and is loosening his once-tyrannical grip on the country to allow for more democratic ideologies.

Israel, along with the Palestinian National Authority, present Jordan's most complicated foreign issue at hand. The government has taken no significant military action against either party since its signing of the peace accords of 1994. The government must be praised for its ability to adhere to this strict neutrality policy, despite the expected political pressure from the huge portion of Palestinian refugees in the country, and the almost completely pro-Palestinian population. Although the monarchy has the loyalty of the people, pro-Israeli ideologies can easily cause them to lose support and may risk a mass rebellion.¹



Geography and Economy

Jordan is an independent nation located in the middle east, bordering Iraq, Israel (including the West Bank), Saudi Arabia, and Syria. The country is 92,300 square kilometers (an area slightly smaller than Indiana). Jordan

only has 26 kilometers of coastline along the Gulf of Aqaba (which leads to the

¹ This is a rather simple but vital point to keep in mind during simulation. Although the monarch may appear to have absolute power, this is a very sensitive issue that could destroy the government's political support.

Red Sea, and uses the famous Jordan River as its western border with Israel and the West Bank. Also between these two countries lies the Dead Sea, the saltiest body of water on Earth, not to mention the lowest point as well. The country is mostly arid desert, frequented by drought, and lies in the Great Rift Valley (which explains why the region is susceptible to, but not necessarily frequented by, earthquakes).

Jordan hosts a population of 5,759,732, with a growth rate of 2.56%, a typical age structure, an average age of 23, a life expectancy of 78 years old, and a literacy rate of 91%. The population is 98% Arab and 92% Sunni Muslim.

As a typical third-world country, the government is faced with a high debt (external \$7.32 billion, public \$21.68 billion), rate of unemployment (officially 15%, realistically 30%), and rate of poverty (30% below poverty line). The annual GDP is approximately \$25.5 billion.

Jordan is faced with poor supplies of natural resources including those of water and oil. The country relies on phosphate mining, pharmaceuticals, petroleum refining, cement, potash, inorganic chemicals, light manufacturing, and tourism for industry, which grows in production at an estimated rate of 5% per year. The main sector composing the GDP, surprisingly, is the services sector, which returns 71.5% of the GDP with 82.5% of the labor force. Exports entail various commodities (perhaps phosphates the most important), which are mainly exported to the United States, Iraq, India, and Saudi Arabia. In return, imports (the most important being crude oil) come from Saudi Arabia, China, Germany, and the United States.

Since King Abdullah II's ascent to power in 1999, the country has been blessed with several economic advancements due in large part to the new king's reforms. Most of these reforms were undertaken in a long-term effort to improve living standards. The Central Bank has, in the past three years, worked closely with the IMF to improve their monetary policy and gain substantial headway with privatization of business. The trade regime has been liberalized sufficiently so that Jordan gained admission to the WTO in 2000, signed a free trade accord with the United States (2001), and created an association agreement with the European Union (2001). These advancements were made in hopes of improving productivity and gaining status as a foreign investment prospect (both hopes are being sufficiently accomplished). Jordan used to export oil from Iraq during the pre-Bush invasion period, but has recovered sufficiently from this problem by diverting its crude oil business transactions to the Gulf States and increasing the prices of retail petroleum products. In May 2005, Jordan hosted the World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea, where several issues pertinent to the Middle Eastern Question were raised.

Jordan has a standing military of 60,625, with a registered 1,348,076 males fit for military service. Per annum, the government spends approximately \$1.46 billion on the military, which is roughly 15% of the annual GDP.

At this point, Jordan plans to divert its economic attention to reducing its dependence on foreign grants, reducing its budget deficit, and improving investment prospects so as to spur job creation.



The Cabinet of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

(for PICSim use)

For the PICSim 2006 Conference, this committee will consist of HRH King Abdullah II, the Prime Minister, and various ministers of the government, rather than a panel of appointed advisors. This way, every delegate will have a field of specialization, and can be consulted for his/her expertise on the issue at hand. This congregation of the head of ministries will be our altered definition of the Jordanian Cabinet. Please review the positions outlined below, be familiar with each minister's duties, and become well-versed in the matters that concern your ministry. It is vital that each delegate adhere strictly to their character's role, and not be biased by their own personal views. By doing this, we can simulate any given situation with a great degree of real-world accuracy, and hence, have a more fruitful and reward debate. The delegates should also realize that the sense of authority in this cabinet is expected to be diluted; in a real situation with such a cabinet, the King would have final say in all matters, and would value the Prime Minister's opinion more than any other. To interrupt a King is frowned upon as well, as you can imagine. In this crisis simulation, I beg you to interrupt and/or dissent as you deem fit (needless to say, a certain degree of respect is expected from all delegates). Rather than expecting the king to make the final decision, a more democratic approach will be used, to ensure participation from all. Decisions, of course, can be overruled or altered at the king's discretion, but will not occur frequently (only when the decision made does not agree with the doctrines of the real Jordanian government, or when a controversial move is required to spur debate and conflict).

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS KING ABDULLAH II AL-HUSSEIN (King of Jordan):

The chair of this committee, Anas Sarhan, will serve as the King. His role is rather self-explanatory (for our purposes, I will mainly be the mediator of debate).

HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER ADNAN BADRAN (Prime Minister):

The director of the committee will serve as the Prime Minister. His/her role will be to relay our decisions to the crisis staff (which may or may not be confidential, as we decide). The Prime Minister will be second-in-command, if the king at any point cannot be present for the meeting. Also, the Prime Minister is expected to offer his advice and arguments just like every other member of this committee.

The following roles may or may not all be filled by the delegates. In either case, please read them all carefully so as to determine each minister's area of expertise, and note where duties may overlap (ministers must collaborate during our sessions in such a situation).

HIS EXCELLENCY MINISTER FAROUQ KASRAWY (Minister of Foreign Affairs): This minister will be expected to advise on all international political situations, and will play a major role in debate. He/she will be expected to have extensive knowledge on the political situation of each other country or council in this conference, and all other pertinent organizations or states. This minister will be central to most issues of debate, so it is expected that all ministers be well-versed in the current events of the region.

HIS EXCELLENCY MINISTER MOHAMMAD ODEH NAJADAAT (Minister of Defense):² This minister will be in charge of the armed forces (who are truly under the command of the King). However, for the purpose of this simulation, this minister will be assumed to be the commander of the army, subject to this committee's decisions. As such, this delegate must know the statistics of the Jordanian Army (all divisions), and be able to locate the forces and military bases on a map. The delegate is expected to advise the committee on issues of military action. It would be extremely useful if the delegate can find the standing army sizes and military bases of the other countries, so as to serve as a database of military knowledge as well.

HIS EXCELLENCY MINISTER AWNI YERFAS (Minister of Interior): This minister will be concerned with any internal affairs, and will collaborate with most of the other ministers before advising the committee. Issues can entail anything from infrastructure to environmental issues to economic issues. It is rather manifest why it is necessary for this minister to be well-learned in most topics covered by other ministers.

HIS EXCELLENCY MINISTER SHARIF AL-ZUBI (Minister of Industry and Trade): This minister will deal with all economic issues that concern Jordan and its development. He/she will be in close collaboration with the Minister of Finance for obvious reasons. It is important that this delegate be well-versed in Jordan's recent economic developments, and must know the details of the recent World Economic Forum held in Jordan in May 2005.

HIS EXCELLENCY MINISTER ADEL QUDAH (Minister of Finance): This minister is expected to keep a file on the financial transactions of the Kingdom during our crises. The Kingdom cannot spend money it does not have. This delegate must research possible donors of aid, investors, or other fund-raising prospects that can be consulted in a time of need (such as armed conflict). This minister should understand Jordan's banking systems, and recognize feasible financial pursuits.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ZEID RA'AD ZEID AL-HUSSEIN (Permanent Representative to the UN, New York): The representative of Jordan to the UN should be well-versed in the UN Security Council Resolutions that pertain to Jordan or any other

² Note that Minister Najadaat is actually the Minister of State, and that Prime Minister Badran is also the Minister of Defense. Since the Minister of State's duties are covered mostly by the Minister of Interior, he will not be required for this committee. Instead, he will serve as the Minister of Defense, since the Prime Minister's (director) duties are already numerous.

interest Jordan may have. The delegate shall present the cabinet with pertinent information about the UN subsidiary organizations operating in the Middle East when requested (such as UNRWA). Note this delegate's royal status: he/she must be addressed as a prince at all times.

HIS EXCELLENCY MINISTER ABDUL SALAM AL-ABADI (Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs): This minister, most likely the most fundamentalist (but necessarily violent; he is actually a very pacifist man with strong beliefs), will deal with any fundamentalist issue, international or internal, as a representative of the Muslims. He/she will be expected to rationalize the thoughts of terrorist cells, tyrannical regimes, and especially the religious background behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I have a feeling that this minister has a manifest interest in the Muslim holy site of Jerusalem.

AMBASSADOR KARIM TAWFIQ KAWAR (Ambassador to the United States): This ambassador will be vital in communicating with the United States, who, needless to say, will play a central role in this conference. This delegate must be knowledgeable about the United States' role in the Middle East, and especially in Jordan.

HIS EXCELLENCY MINISTER ABDULLAH OWEIDAT (Minister of Social Development and Labor):³ This minister will be concerned with the citizens of Jordan, including labor prospects and general welfare. Education, poverty, and unemployment should all be addressed by this minister (even the water crisis in Jordan pertains to this minister's expertise).

HIS EXCELLENCY AZMI KHRISAT (Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources): At this point in time, it is vital to consider our sources of energy. With the volatility of the region, and Jordan's almost complete dependence on fossil fuel for energy, this ministry plays an important economic role in providing resources necessary for life. This minister is expected to also be well-versed in economic issues, seeing that the provision of energy is in fact directly dependent on trade.

³ Please note that in reality, these are two separate ministries. However, due to the time constraints on debate, we are forced to merge these two ministries. When researching, please refer to the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Labor (possibly even the Ministry of Water and Irrigation).



Other Useful Links

Although this background guide touches upon most topics necessary for this simulation, it is not enough to educate oneself about Jordan's politics sufficiently. It is imperative that all delegates at least browse all of the following sites (this list is by no standards complete):

The CIA World Factbook: a good background information packet.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/jo.html>

The Jordanian Constitution: clarifies any concerns regarding the government's structure.

http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/constitution_jo.html

Security Council Resolution 242: regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace%20Process/Guide%20to%20the%20Peace%20Process/UN%20Security%20Council%20Resolution%20242>

Security Council Resolution 338: regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (follow-up to Res. 242).

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace%20Process/Guide%20to%20the%20Peace%20Process/UN%20Security%20Council%20Resolution%20338>

1994 Jordan-Israeli Treaty of Peace: the terms of peace between Israel and Jordan (includes a resolution to the water crisis).

<http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/peacetreaty.html>

Geneva Initiative: peace negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

http://www.mfa.gov.jo/pages.php?menu_id=354

World Economic Forum in Jordan 2005: Outlines issues debated.

<http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/World+Economic+Forum+in+Jordan+2005>

King Abdullah II Website: Information on the current monarch and government.

www.kingabdullah.jo/

Official Website- Jordan: Official website of the Kingdom.

www.kinghussein.gov.jo/jordan.html

Embassy of Jordan in the US: Official website with current events.

www.jordanembassyus.org/new/index.shtml

BBC.co.uk: Excellent source for current events (my personal view).

www.bbc.co.uk/

Al-Jazeera: The largest Arabic news broadcasting network (current events).

<http://www.aljazeera.com/>