

JORDAN HOPES U.N. CHIEF.....

KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, WHO HAS BEEN INSISTING THAT THE ARAB LEADERS THEMSELVES CAN FIND A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION, WAS IN LIBYA TODAY AND PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO ALGERIA, TUNISIA, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA BEFORE GOING TO EUROPE AND THEN TO BAGHDAD.

SOME DIPLOMATS WERE SKEPTICAL OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE KING'S TRAVELS. AIDES SAID HE WOULD NOT BE IN JORDAN TO WELCOME MR. PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND MR. AZIZ.

SOME DIPLOMATS SAID THE KING MIGHT FIND IT CONVENIENT TO BE AWAY WHEN FOREIGN CRITICS WERE CONTINUING TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT JORDAN'S RELUCTANCE TO APPLY THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

WHILE JORDAN IS INDEED ANXIOUS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE KING'S POPULARITY REMAINS HIGH. IN A COUNTRY THAT OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTS PRESIDENT HUSSEIN, POSTERS WITH TWIN COLOR PORTRAITS OF THE IRAQI LEADER AND KING HUSSEIN HAVE BEGUN APPEARING IN SHOP WINDOWS AND AT PRO-IRAQ DEMONSTRATIONS.

SEEKING A CONSENSUS

JORDANIANS CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT SAID THE GOAL OF THE KING'S TRIP IS TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS, URGING WITHDRAWAL FROM KUWAIT, AMONG ARAB COUNTRIES THAT HAVE APPEARED MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN OTHERS OF IRAQ'S POSITION. OF THE COUNTRIES HE IS VISITING, ONLY MOROCCO HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED IRAQ.

"HE WANTS TO BE ABLE TO GO TO SADDAM AND SAY, 'LOOK, THIS IS WHAT THE COUNTRIES THINK, LET'S FIND A SOLUTION,'" A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SAID. A WESTERN DIPLOMAT SAID THE KING WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO BROADEN THE APPEAL FOR WITHDRAWAL WITH AMMUNITION GATHERED ON HIS SWING THROUGH EUROPE.

PRESIDENT HUSSEIN HAS BEEN ADAMANT ON STAYING IN KUWAIT. BUT THE KING AND OTHER JORDANIANS SAY THEY BELIEVE HE IS MORE FLEXIBLE THAN HE INDICATES IN PUBLIC. THEY SAY THEY BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT HUSSEIN WAS WILLING TO WITHDRAW FROM KUWAIT SHORTLY AFTER HIS TROOPS INVADED BUT STIFFENED HIS POSITION IN RESPONSE TO THE CONDEMNATION FROM A MAJORITY OF LEADERS IN THE ARAB LEAGUE.

AT THE TIME, UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THAT IRAQI TROOPS WERE MASSING ON THE SAUDI BORDER IN WHAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE PREPARATION FOR AN ATTACK. THE JORDANIANS SAID THEN, AS THEY DO NOW, THAT THEY BELIEVE PRESIDENT HUSSEIN HAS NEVER INTENDED TO INVADE SAUDI ARABIA.

THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN AND FRANCE SAY IRAQ'S DEPARTURE FROM KUWAIT IS MANDATORY FOR ANY DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS.

MR. PEREZ DE CUELLAR HAS NOT SPELLED OUT WHAT HE PLANS TO DISCUSS WITH MR. AZIZ.