

THE ROYAL PALACE
AMMAN JORDAN

12 July, 1990

Dear Professor Mesdman.

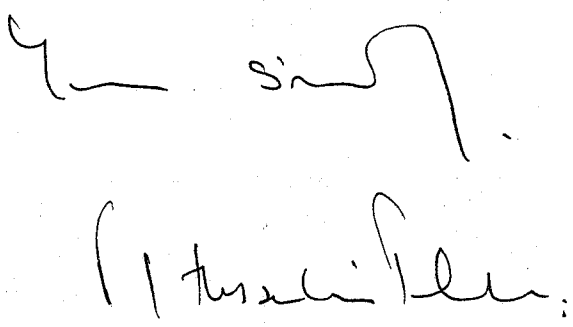
Having just returned from a trip abroad, and although some time has passed since the conference in Ma'in on chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction, I think it is important to continue our dialogue in some form. I am therefore writing to you on a couple of points that I think are worthy of mention.

Chemical weapons, their use and the control of their use, should be dealt with in the broader span of arms control as a whole. Your own impressive data indicated that in the Iran/Iraq war, Iraq's much-deliberated use of chemical weapons was a more demoralizing force than literally offence/defence significance. Sadly, their greatest and most horrifying use has been against civilians, or, as in Iran, against "revolutionary" civilian volunteers to war. This ugly truth brings us back to the original arms traders and the ethics of their trade.

Whether perceived as reliable or not, controllable or not, the supply of destructive capacity from the big powers to any foreign state broadens the possibility that someone from within the Western system will be offering that capacity for sale to others. This is confirmed again and again in the experience of all developing countries with Western arms salesmen.

The future and welfare of humanity remains totally dependent on non-discriminate, honest declarations of arms possession and relevant data. Popular pressure must be brought to bear on the adherence of the Superpowers, and the states they patronize, to the same rules of the game as the third world, within the broad perspective of the human rights element in international arms control. Full support should be given to guarantees of non-discrimination in any case of adherence to the chemical, or other, weapons conventions.

I would welcome any comments and observations you may wish to make and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'El Hassan Bin Talal'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

EL HASSAN BIN TALAL
Crown Prince of the
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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