

Jordan

The regime's new measures designed to pave the road to the Jordanian option.

Ten years have elapsed since the Rabat Summit Conference. Now King Hussein is promoting talk of UN Security Council resolution 242, which does not conform to UN or Arab Summit decisions, which recognized the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people wherever they may be.

New government

In early January, King Hussein abolished the National Consultative Council and convened the suspended National Assembly (parliament), which then nominated Ahmad Obeidat, Minister of the Interior in Mudar Badran's government, to form a new Jordanian government. Mudar Badran headed the most lasting government in

the history of Jordan. It lasted seven years, interrupted only for a short period by the government headed by the late Abdul Hamid Sharaf. Obeidat, the new Prime Minister, is the seventh minister of the interior, and the second chief of the intelligence, to become Prime Minister in Jordan. His first appointment to a governmental post (Interior Minister) came in April, 1982, after an amendment made by Badran especially for this purpose.

For months it had been certain that Badran would step down as Prime Minister, because the regime needed a change due to the deterioration of the economy and lapses in security control. Thus Badran could be held responsible for the aggravated situation. However, the appointment of Obeidat to form a new government came as a surprise. This indicates that the new government will only be a transitional one intended to

perform a specific mission: the internal rearrangement of the Jordanian household needed to pursue the next step in Camp David.

There are several points which confirm this: For one, the government was formed after the convening of the parliament which is considered to represent both the East Bank, i.e. Jordan, and the West Bank (Palestine). Moreover, the new government was formed in the context of attempts and wagers on a split in the PLO. While obviously not signifying any real change in the internal balance of power, the composition of the new government was carefully determined so as to maintain the formal balance between the various districts and tribes in Jordan. The government even included some liberals, such as Laila Sharaf, Jawad Anani and Taher Hikmat. All of this is to provide a cover for the Jordanian

