The Weather
Today—Partly cloudy, high in 30s, low in 20s. Chance of precipitation 10 per cent through tonight. Saturday—Fair, high in 40s. Yesterday—3 p.m. AQI, 24; Temp. range, 33-18. Details are on Page C2.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1977

CIA Paid Millions to Jordan’s

By Bob Woodward
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Central Intelligence Agency for 20 years has made secret annual payments totaling millions of dollars to King Hussein of Jordan, The Washington Post has learned.

The payoffs were reported last year to President Ford as an impropriety by the Intelligence Oversight Board, a three-member panel set up by Ford to curb CIA abuses.

President Ford took no steps to stop the covert payments. Last year Hussein was paid approximately $750,000 by the CIA.

President Carter learned of the payoffs earlier this week after this newspaper began its investigation. He ordered that the payments be stopped.

The secret arrangement with Hussein had not been disclosed to Carter by the CIA or by anyone of the previous administration, including President Ford, former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, or former CIA Director George Bush.

Carter was “distressed” that he had not been told, according to well-placed sources, and sees the solution to CIA abuses as quick confirmation of his nominee as CIA director, Navy Adm. Stansfield Turner.

In addition, the Senate Intelligence Committee created last year to oversee the CIA apparently was not given the full story by the Ford administration of the secret payments to Hussein.

One of the most closely held and sensitive of all CIA covert activities, the payments to Hussein were made under the codeword project name of “No Beef.” They were usually delivered in cash to the king by the CIA station chief in Amman.

As justification for the direct cash payments to Hussein, the CIA claimed that Hussein was allowing U.S. intelligence agencies to operate freely in his strategically placed Middle Eastern country.

Hussein himself provided intelligence to the CIA and forwarded money from the payments to other government officials who provided in-
telligence or cooperated with the CIA.

Nonetheless, some CIA officials con-
sidered the payments nothing more
than "bribes" and reported the mat-
ter to President Ford's oversight
panel.

Hussein, according to sources, con-
siders the payments, simply another
form of U.S. assistance.

Within the CIA, the "No Beef" proj-
ect has been considered one of its
most successful operations, giving the
United States great leverage and unu-
usal access to the leader of a sover-
eign state.

The payments were first made to
Hussein in 1957 during the Eisen-
hower administration. The initial pay-
ments apparently ran in the millions
of dollars but they were sharply cur-
tailed to the $750,000 level last year.

Hussein was only 21 when he first
became a beneficiary of CIA funds. It
was a time when Jordan was virtually
a ward of the United States and Hus-
sein had little money to support his
lifestyle, which earned him the repu-
tation as a "playboy prince."

Hussein has a well-publicized taste
for sports cars and airplanes. As once
previously reported, the CIA has pro-
vided Hussein with female compan-
ions. The agency also provided body-
guards for Hussein's children when
they were abroad in school.

Some money from the most recent
See FUNDS, A5, Col. 1

KING HUSSEIN
... benefited secretly since 1957
CIA Paid Millions to Jordan's Hussein

FUNDS

CIA payments to Hussein have been used to pay for bodyguards for his children. Over the years, Hussein has maintained friendly relations with the United States and his country has been the recipient of substantial military and economic aid—about $201 million in loans and grants last year alone.

The "No Beef" payments to Hussein were made outside the conventional channel of military and economic assistance. Well-placed sources said that nevertheless the United States has not been able to direct Hussein's overall policy decisions. He has not been a "puppet," the sources said, but he has rarely drifted outside the U.S. orbit.

In late 1974 the CIA became the focus of several government investigations into alleged abuses, and in February, 1978, President Ford directed a reorganization of the intelligence community. Part of a Feb. 18, 1978, executive order set up the Intelligence Oversight Board which, among other things was to "report in a timely manner to the President any activities that raise serious questions about propriety."

The office of the general counsel in the CIA was assigned by the executive order to report any alleged abuses to the oversight panel. The general counsel soon made such a report on the Hussein payments, and called them possibly improper.

The panel appointed by Ford included former Under Secretary of State Robert D. Murphy, former Secretary of the Army Stephen Ailes, and business book publisher Leo Cherne.

By last summer the overnight panel had made a formal report to President Ford on the payments, concluding that they were improper. Ford read the report...

President Cyrus R. Vance is scheduled to meet with King Hussein today during Vance's six-nation trip to the Middle East. Jordan is widely considered a moderating influence on the Palestinians and a key to any lasting Middle East peace settlement. The country is considered a vital part of any realistic option for getting the Palestinians represented at a future Geneva peace conference.

Geographically, Jordan is in a central position, sharing borders with Israel, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Israel's entire eastern border touches Jordan. Hussein's decisions have often been highly compatible with U.S. and Israeli interests. For example, he expelled the Palestine Liberation Organization from Jordan in 1970, though this also helped Hussein's own domestic situation.

In 1973, Hussein refused to join in the Arab war against Israel. It is often considered a miracle that Hussein has held power for 24 years through the turbulence of the Middle East wars, frequent internal strife and at least a dozen assassination attempts.

Last week his wife, Queen Alia, 28, died in a helicopter crash while returning from a hospital mission to Jordan where she worked for the Red Cross.

CIA's Role in Jordan's Hussein

From the perspective of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Hussein payments were made outside the conventional channel of military and economic assistance. Jordan was not asked to join in the operation, though it did receive military aid from the United States. The payments were seen as a way to ensure Hussein's continued support for the Palestinian cause.

China's involvement in the Middle East peace process has been minimal, although it has provided some funding for Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

The United States has provided economic aid to Jordan, including funding for education and health care. However, the payments to Hussein were made outside the conventional channel of military and economic assistance. Well-placed sources said that nevertheless the United States has not been able to direct Hussein's overall policy decisions. He has not been a "puppet," the sources said, but he has rarely drifted outside the U.S. orbit.