

**PALABRAS DE LA PRESIDENTA DEL SENADO  
DURANTE LA VISITA DE SS.MM. LOS REYES DEL  
REINO HACHEMITA DE JORDANIA AL SENADO**

(Palacio del Senado, 21.10.1999)

Majestades,

En nombre del Senado y de las Cortes Generales de España es para mí un honor dirigirles estas palabras de bienvenida y de amistad.

**Bienvenida y amistad** que quieren ofrecerles las Cortes Generales de España como máximos representantes que sois de un país con el que nuestra nación siempre ha mantenido estrechas relaciones. No en vano, España fue el primer país en reconocer diplomáticamente a Jordania al acceder a su plena independencia, en tiempos del rey Abdalá I, Vuestro bisabuelo.

Una clara manifestación de la **simpatía y amistad que unen a nuestros países** la constituye el hecho de que VV.MM hayan escogido España como primer país europeo que han querido visitar oficialmente. Esa especial deferencia los españoles la apreciamos, la agradecemos y nos sentimos profundamente honrados por ella.

Nada de lo que ocurre en Jordania nos resulta ajeno a los españoles. Así se puso de manifiesto hace unos meses, cuando se produjo la dolorosa noticia del fallecimiento de S. M. el Rey Hussein y la posterior exaltación al trono de Vuestra Majestad. En aquellos momentos, trascendentales para la historia de Jordania, la Familia Real Española transmitió al pueblo y a las autoridades jordanas la emoción, la solidaridad y la simpatía de todo el pueblo español.

Nuestras buenas relaciones se basan en una serie de vínculos que compartimos y, sobre todo, en la firme voluntad común de Jordania y de España para colaborar activamente en favor de la paz.

En los últimos tiempos, el **proceso de paz en Oriente Medio** ha dado nuevos pasos en la dirección, por todos deseada, de alcanzar soluciones estables para una convivencia pacífica duradera. El Memorandum de Sharm-el Sheikh, firmado el pasado 4 de septiembre, camina hacia ese objetivo, no exento, como todos sabemos, de importantes dificultades.

La posición de Jordania ha sido, y sigue siendo, fundamental para alcanzar la paz. A lo largo de estos años ha dado muestras de su deseo sincero de lograrla, y ha intervenido para hacerla realidad.

España, por su parte, también está colaborando en el logro de la paz. Nuestra nación ha realizado significativas acciones con este propósito, al tiempo que, unida a los demás países miembros de la Unión Europea, realiza la mayor contribución económica en el proceso de paz, con un volumen de recursos que en los últimos cinco años ha alcanzado la cuantía de 1.500 millones de dólares.

Debemos continuar en esa línea. La colaboración financiera española proseguirá durante los próximos años, como ya ha sido anunciado por los representantes españoles en la zona. Y debemos redoblar también las iniciativas diplomáticas, tanto de la Unión Europea como de la propia España. Contamos, para ello, con la fructífera sintonía política entre nuestro país y Jordania.

Nuestros países, situados en los extremos del Mediterráneo, se encuentran separados por ese **mare nostrum**, que, al mismo tiempo, es nuestro vínculo de unión geográfica, histórica, económica y cultural.

España y Jordania quieren, y esta visita de VV.MM. es buena muestra de ello profundizar en todo aquello que nos une. En primer lugar, como ya he dicho, en el deseo compartido de alcanzar una paz que, desde Oriente Medio, se extienda a todo ámbito mediterráneo. Pero también queremos **ahondar en las herencias culturales que compartimos y desarrollar activamente un futuro económico** en el marco natural del Mediterráneo.

Jordania y España quieren estar juntas en la búsqueda de soluciones para los problemas que nos son comunes en un mundo cada vez más globalizado. Y en esa búsqueda queremos permanecer fieles a aquellos principios que nos parecen irrenunciables: la paz entre los pueblos, la libertad de los individuos y el reconocimiento y fortalecimiento de los derechos humanos.

Con esos objetivos comunes, nuestros países construirán un futuro de unión, de concordia, de colaboración, de desarrollo y de diálogo constante entre nuestras dos culturas.

Majestades,

Vuestra Majestad es heredero de un antiguo e inmenso legado histórico, religioso y cultura. En los meses de Vuestro reinado, Majestad, **habéis dado ya suficientes muestras de Vuestra capacidad** para llenar el hueco que dejó, en Jordania y en todo el mundo, Vuestro padre, el recordado Rey Hussein. Permitidme que, en nombre de las Cortes Generales de España, os ofrezca nuestra felicitación por la obra que estáis llevando a cabo por el bien de Vuestro pueblo y de la paz mundial.

Una obra que se ve completada con las acciones que S.M. la **Reina Rania** impulsa generosamente en favor de los necesitados y de los desfavorecidos.

Majestades,

Antes de terminar estas palabras de amistosa bienvenida, quiero reiterar el ofrecimiento español a colaborar activamente en todos los proyectos y en todas las iniciativas que interesen al pueblo de Jordania. Especialmente en todo el laborioso proceso que busca una paz justa y definitiva en Oriente Medio. Vuestro padre, Majestad, obtuvo el reconocimiento universal por su labor en favor de la paz. Estoy segura de que seréis su digno sucesor en esa tarea. Y sabed que, en ese empeño, tendréis siempre el apoyo, la ayuda y la amistad de España.

Muchas gracias.

5381015

**SPEECH BY**

**HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH II**

**AT**

**THE SPANISH PARLIAMENT**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY MRS. AGUIRRE,  
YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. TRILLO-FIGUEROA,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

IT IS WITH A DEEP SENSE OF HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY THAT I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY ADDRESSING THIS AUGUST BODY. THE HONOURABLE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREAT PEOPLE OF SPAIN.

I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR THE GREAT PRIVILEGE AND HONOUR FOR YOUR INVITATION TO ADDRESS YOU AT THIS CRITICAL AND EXCITING TIME, AND I HOPE I WILL BE ABLE TO REPAY YOU THE HONOUR WITH FRIENDSHIP AND HONESTY, WHICH HAVE ALWAYS DICTATED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPAIN AND JORDAN, TWO COUNTRIES WHO HAVE ALWAYS SHARED MANY SIMILAR CONCERNS AND OPINIONS, PARAMOUNT AMONGST THEM OUR CONVICTION FOR THE NEED FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND THE RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS.

**EXCELLENCIES,**

AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A VERY DIFFICULT ONE FOR US IN JORDAN. ONE IN



7-16-99 SAT 01:24 PM NEW BOSTON

FAX: 16174515354

PAGE 14

16174515354

WHICH WE LOST NOT ONLY A FATHER TO US ALL, BUT A MAN WHO WAS THE CREATOR OF MODERN JORDAN AND THE CAPTAIN OF ITS SHIP FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY. HIS MAJESTY'S LOSS, HOWEVER, HAS MADE US EVER MORE RESOLVED TO CONTINUE HIS LEGACY, WHICH ALTHOUGH VARIED AND VERY RICH, CAN BE ENCAPSULED INTO TWO WORDS. PEACE AND NATION BUILDING.

I WALKED INTO HIS LATE MAJESTY'S STUDY A FEW YEARS AGO, WHILE HE WAS READING A BOOK WHICH I THINK WAS ENTITLED "CHOICE", AND HE LOOKED UP AT ME AND IN HIS EVER PRESENT AND REASSURING VOICE TOLD ME "*THINK OF YOURSELF AS A MAN OF HISTORY, NOT A MAN EXPERIENCING HISTORY*". I DID NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE THEN, BUT I KNOW WHAT HE MEANT NOW. AND, I AM DETERMINED TO FULFILL HIS LEGACY AND LIVE BY HIS ADVICE.

A FEW DAYS AFTER THAT INCIDENT, ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 1991, THE SAME DAY IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT JORDAN WILL BE JOINING THE MADRID PEACE CONFERENCE, HIS MAJESTY SPOKE TO THE JORDANIAN PEOPLE AND SAID "*I AM IN THE AUTUMN OF MY LIFE, AFTER A JOURNEY THAT HAS LASTED FORTY YEARS SINCE I BECAME KING, AND LATELY (I HAVE BEEN BURDENED WITH A BIG QUESTION),*

***DO I ANSWER TO THE CALLINGS OF MY PERSONAL NEEDS,  
OR DO I CONTINUE TO SERVE MY PEOPLE?***

***I THOUGHT LONG AND VERY HARD ABOUT THIS, AND STUDYING THE CRITICAL AND VERY DIFFICULT POSITION THAT THE COUNTRY IS PASSING THROUGH, I SAW THAT IN THE PURSUIT OF MY PERSONAL NEEDS, AN ESCAPE FROM MY RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS YOU. AND THUS, I HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE CARRYING THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY WITH ALL ITS HARSHIPS, PRAYING TO THE ALMIGHTY TO HELP US OVERCOME IT FOR THE GOOD OF JORDAN, THE ARAB WORLD AND ISLAM. ALL I DESIRE IS A CLEAR CONSCIENCE AND TO SERVE MY NATION IN ORDER FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND DIGNITY. I WANT TO WORK FOR PEACE AND TO PROTECT IT FOREVER AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING WHAT OUR PEOPLE DESERVE."***

***IT IS WITH THIS SENSE OF DUTY TOWARDS MY PEOPLE, MY COUNTRY, AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE, THAT I HUMBLY STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY. YOU, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEAR AND BROTHERLY SPANISH PEOPLE WITH WHOM MY COUNTRY, MY PEOPLE AND MY FAMILY HAVE THE CLOSEST TIES OF FRIENDSHIP, RESPECT AND ADMIRATION - TO ASSURE YOU THAT I REGARD MY POSITION AS THE KING OF JORDAN, A NOBLE MISSION AND A***

HOLY DUTY WHICH WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY THE WILL OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD, THE CHOICE OF MY LATE FATHER, AND THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF THE JORDANIAN PEOPLE. I INTEND TO DO MY UTMOST TO CARRY THE HEAVY BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY AND TO DEVOTE MY LIFE, AS MY LATE FATHER HAD DONE BEFORE ME, TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT WHAT JORDAN HAS ACHIEVED, AND TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF NATION-BUILDING, PEACE-BUILDING AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF A CIVIL SOCIETY BASED ON JUSTICE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PLURALISM. TO PURSUE THIS LEGACY.

WE, IN JORDAN, ARE CONTINUING THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND IN DEVELOPING A PROPER SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES. WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS IS NOT JUST A SET OF LAWS ESTABLISHING THE FRAMEWORK FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY, BUT A PROCESS BY WHICH THE CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY BECOMES INTERTWINED IN OUR SOCIETY THROUGH DAILY PRACTICE.

I TOLD HIS MAJESTY YESTERDAY, JORDAN IS WORKING HARD TO PRESERVE THE SUCCESS STORIES OF THE JORDAN-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY AND TO HELP IN SUPPORTING ALL PARTIES TO ACHIEVE A JUST, COMPREHENSIVE AND LASTING PEACE.

7-16-99 SAT 01:26 PM NEW BOSTON

FAX: 16174515354

PAGE 17

16174515354

IN THIS REGARD, SPAIN'S VERY IMPORTANT ROLE MUST BE MENTIONED. FOR, NOT ONLY WAS MADRID (THE CITY OF HOPE) THAT HOSTED THE BEGINNING OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF ANY PART OF THE WORLD - FROM THE SCOURGE OF WAR TO THE HORIZON OF PEACE, BUT IT WAS ALSO THE COUNTRY THAT PRODUCED AMONGST ITS PEOPLE TRUE BELIEVERS IN PEACE AROUND THE WORLD, THAT CONTINUED TO MOVE AND PROD THE PROCESS ALONG WHEN ALL WERE BEGINNING TO LOSE SIGHT OF THAT HORIZON.

MAY I, ON THIS OCCASION, MENTION THE VERY IMPORTANT ROLE OF TWO OF SPAIN'S SONS. PRIME MINISTER AZNAR, WHO ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO WAS WORKING RELENTLESSLY TO BRING THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI POSITION CLOSER IN ORDER FOR THEM TO RETURN TO WHERE THE NEGOTIATIONS STOPPED IN 1996. ALSO, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MIGUEL MORATINOS, WHO'S EFFORTS TO BRING THE PARTIES CLOSER OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WILL BE RECORDED WITH PRIDE IN THE ANNALS OF HISTORY, AS YET ANOTHER ONE OF SPAIN'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS HUMANITY.

WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN MAJOR STEPS IN CONTINUING TO CREATE AN EVEN MORE FRIENDLY INVESTMENT

7-16-99 SAT 01:25 PM

NEW BOSTON

FAX: 16174515354

PAGE 13

16174515354

ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL HELP US, WITH THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF OUR FRIENDS, TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS THAT MY COUNTRY IS FACING. THE ALLEVIATION OF OUR FOREIGN DEBT IS ANOTHER WAY WE HOPE THAT OUR FRIENDS WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT US IN ORDER FOR US TO ACHIEVE THE HEIGHTS THAT WE ASPIRE TO, AFTER DECADES OF HOPELESSNESS AND DESPAIR.

I HOPE AND PRAY, WITH A STRONG DETERMINATION TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS AND TO BECOME A MAN OF HISTORY NOT A MAN EXPERIENCING IT.

HIS LATE MAJESTY ALSO, DURING THOSE VERY TRYING TIMES IN 1991, ADDRESSED THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG AND SAID "THROUGHOUT THESE YEARS I FEARED NO ONE BUT GOD, TO WHOM I HUMBLY PRAY, THAT IF I DO NOT LIVE TO SEE THE DAY WHEN I COULD EXPERIENCE THE REAL PRIDE AND JOY OF ADDRESSING A PAN-ARAB PARLIAMENT - MODELLED ON THIS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - REPRESENTING THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF A SIMILARLY CONSTRUCTED ARAB COMMUNITY, THAT BEFORE LONG IT WILL BE THE PRIVILEGE OF ANOTHER TO EXPERIENCE SUCH A PROUD MOMENT. I SHALL CONTINUE MY RELENTLESS

*ENDEAVOURS TO REALIZE SUCH A LONG CHERISHED DREAM FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE."*

I HOPE THAT ONE DAY, IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, WE WILL INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE OPENING OF THIS PAN-ARAB PARLIAMENT, WHICH HIS MAJESTY HOPED THAT HE WOULD SEE, AND WHICH I WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE. I MENTION THIS BECAUSE OF SPAIN'S ROLE IN THE E.U. COMMUNITY, AND ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS IN OPENING MORE DIALOGUE AND BUILDING MORE BRIDGES WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

MORE BRIDGES THAT NOT ONLY BRING INTER-CULTURAL AND INTER-TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS, BUT ALSO SOUND A REASSURING MESSAGE TO ALL THOSE BELIEVERS IN PEACE AND STABILITY, THAT SPAIN WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY AND SEE THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE - REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY LIVE - TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM. SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER SOLANA'S - YET ANOTHER SON OF THE GREAT SPAIN - LEADERSHIP OF NATO DURING THE KOSOVO CRISIS, IS YET ANOTHER SHINING EXAMPLE THAT THE SPANISH PEOPLE ABHOR TYRANNY AND DESTRUCTION, AND WILL NOT REST UNTIL THE DAY COMES WHERE ALL THE CITIZENS OF OUR PLANET ARE FREE FROM FEAR AND ABLE TO LOOK AT THEIR

20/10/99

14:11

DG PROTOCOLO → 91 5381215

NO. 001

D09

T-16-99 SAT 11:27 AM

NEW BOSTON

FAX: 161748.5884

PAGE 20

161748.5884

CHILDREN AND SEE A BRIGHTER FUTURE, IN A WORLD THAT IS OPEN FOR THE MOVEMENT OF FREE TRADE AND IDEAS.

IN CLOSING, MAY I THANK YOU, THE NOBLE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREAT SPAIN - OUR FOREMOST SUPPORTERS - FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING, AND MAY I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK PRIME MINISTER AZNAR AND HIS CABINET FOR THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

THANK YOU