

## Jordan Seen in Aid Mission

AMMAN, Jordan, Nov. 9 (Reuters) — With no senior officials accompanying him, King Hussein of Jordan flew to Qatar today on a previously unannounced trip in a reported quest for Arab aid. He has made stops in Kuwait and Bahrain and will also visit Oman.

The 1978 Arab summit meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, pledged to give Jordan \$1.25 billion a year for a decade, but actual aid has dwindled sharply, with only Saudi Arabia honoring its commitment fully. Prime Minister Zaid al-Rifai said this month that arrears in Arab aid equaled Jordan's \$6.5 billion foreign debt.

Jordanians working abroad, whose remittances are another key source of foreign exchange, reduced their transfers after King Hussein cut ties

with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in July.

Jordan has met its debt repayments and has a good international credit rating. But progress has been slow on plans announced in June to arrange a \$200 million syndicated loan led by the Gulf International Bank B.S.C., based in Bahrain.

Bankers said the kingdom, which has chronic trade and budget deficits, needs a minimum of \$200 million immediately to restore ebbing confidence in the Jordanian dinar. The currency has plunged since the country's central bank began a managed flotation in mid-October, losing a fifth of its dollar value at central bank rates and a third on the free market.