

TAHIR AL MASRI

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

Born in 1942 in Nablus of a prominent West Bank family, Foreign Minister Masri is the nephew both of Hikmat al Masri, the Deputy Speaker of the Jordanian Upper House, and of Zafer al Masri, the mayor of Nablus who was assassinated on March 2, 1986. Mr. Masri graduated with a B.A. in Business Administration from North Texas State University in 1965 and entered the Jordanian government service.

He became Member of Parliament for Nablus in 1973 and from 1973 to 1975 served as Minister of State for Occupied Territories Affairs. From 1975 to 1978 he was Jordan's Ambassador to Spain, followed by appointment as Ambassador to France from 1978 to 1983 (concurrently Ambassador to the EC 1979-80). He subsequently served as Jordanian Ambassador to Great Britain (1983-84).

In January 1984 he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Ahmed Obeidat and was reconfirmed in that position in April 1985 by Prime Minister Zeid Rifai.