



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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SECRET/SENSITIVE

TO: The Acting Secretary
P - Mr. Newsom

FROM: NEA - Harold H. Saunders

SUBJECT: Iran Update, May 7, 1980

Today's Objectives

-- To consider whether to approve travel to Iran by Americans who may wish to attend the conference on "U.S. aggression."

-- To complete the discussion paper for PRC on Iran strategy.

-- To prepare the cable requested at the SCC conveying the U.S. position on possible Islamic Conference consideration of the hostage situation.

Status of Initiatives

-- We began to hear about Americans who may plan to travel to Iran in the near future. The Graves are again interested as may be Forer and others. Senator Stevenson was contacted by Senator Abourezk (lawyer for the Iranians) and Farhang about a meeting in Iran centering on "U.S. aggression" from May 15-22. Senator Bellmon may also be an invitee. We spoke to Senator Stevenson's office and briefed them on what we knew about the meetings in Iran and asked if he could acquire more information on what the Iranians have in mind. We have told the private Americans they should request a waiver of the travel ban, providing full information.

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RDS 1-2, 5/6/2000

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Per: RSC Project
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BY: B BPA DATE 10/25/12

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-- The meeting between the Swiss, Capucci, Bourguet and Villalon in Zurich is outlined in the attached memcon. They discussed an Iranian plan for a seven-nation conference on the U.S./Iran crisis. We also attach a list of the questions we sent back to the Swiss for the use of Foreign Minister Aubert when he sees Ghotbzadeh after the Tito funeral.

-- According to the preliminary report of the talk with Capucci, Khomeini is very, very sick, Bani Sadr's days are numbered and the strong personalities in Iran are Ghotbzadeh, Behesti and Montazeri. All of this sounds straight from Ghotbzadeh. We should have a complete report today.

-- The Germans have given us the message that is attached, which reports a conversation with the Iranian Charge in Bonn. Today we may have reports of similar Iranian demarches in Tokyo and other European capitals. We will need to reach a decision on how to deal with this conference in Tehran.

-- It is clear from the attached memcon of a conversation between Cottam and Ghotbzadeh that the latter had nothing to do with Bani Sadr's plan for a massive conference. It is equally probable that Bani Sadr knows little or nothing of Ghotbzadeh's seven-nation conference.

-- The German Embassy informed us May 6 that in a meeting between the German Foreign Affairs Under Secretary and Soviet Ambassador Semyanov in Bonn, the Germans had made the point to the Soviets that the hostage issue is of the highest priority and dangerous. The Germans also said they stand by and fully support their American allies. The Germans had questioned why the Soviets were not taking any action that would be helpful in resolving the crisis. The Germans suggested that it would be useful in connection with a new U.S. Secretary of State for the Soviets to restate publicly their opposition to the holding of hostages. Semyanov was curt and only stated that the Soviet position had been made clear and that if the hostages were released the Iranians and the Americans would just get back together again in an anti-Soviet alliance.

-- The Japanese report they are under heavy pressure to get work going on the huge petrochemical project. Six Japanese have been expelled and the Iranians have threatened to turn to the Hungarians for help. The Hungarians have denied any interest.

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-- Bill Lake of L yesterday chaired a meeting with almost all State employees who were released or escaped. He gave them written guidance on restrictions on public appearances, etc. They raised questions concerning filing suits against the Iranian Government and protecting their interests in connection with film dramatizations of the escape being prepared by a Canadian producer. Bill Lake took the position that it would be in the best interest of the remaining hostages if suits were not filed. As the Administration is making proposals for legislation concerning claims, including hostage and family claims, claimants may well stand a much better chance under provisions of such legislation than through the courts. Concerning the Canadian film on the escape, it was agreed that the escapees would check the script for matters directly related to themselves. The IWG would look at it from the viewpoint of intelligence, security, and policy aspects. We would also coordinate with the Canadian Government. There was some feeling among those attending that the Department was restricting them from signing contracts or receiving fees, while also leaving them to their own devices, such as hiring a lawyer, to protect their interests.

Attachments:
as stated

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