

Collection: Office of the Chief of Staff Files
Series: Hamilton Jordan's Confidential Files
Folder: Iran -HJ Panama/Texas Trip, 12/11-14/79
Container: 35

Folder Citation:

Office of the Chief of Staff Files, Hamilton Jordan's Confidential Files,
Iran -HJ Panama/Texas Trip, 12/11-14/79, Container 35

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
memo	Lloyd Cutler to HJ <i>Open 11/2/94</i>	2/26/80	A
memo	Barbara Sachs to HJ <i>↓</i>	2/26/80	A
cable	HJ to Omar Torrijos <i>Open 2/16/96</i>	12/17/79	A
cable	HJ to Omar Torrijos (2 pp.) <i>↓</i>	12/17/79	A
cable	Amembassy Panama to Secstate <i>Open 3/2/95</i>	12/19/79	A
cable	Amembassy Panama to Secstate <i>Open 3/3/95</i>	12/18/79	A
memo	ZB to JC <i>Open 11/2/94</i>	12/18/79	A
corresp.	HJ to Robert Byrd	n.d.	A

FILE LOCATION

Confidential File

Chief of Staff (Jordan) / ~~Box 7 of 8~~ / H.J. Panama/Texas Trip 12/11-14/79

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 12065 governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
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TELEGRAM

The White House Washington

FULL RATE
(STRAIGHT TELEGRAM)
NIGHT LETTER
MAILGRAM

CABLE

DECEMBER 17, 1979

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

TO: GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS
C/O AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AMBLER MOSS
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

MY DEAR GENERAL:

THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK HAVE BEEN SO RUSHED AND HECTIC THAT I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY HAD TIME TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WORKING TOGETHER OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE SHAH HAS RECEIVED THE MEDICAL TREATMENT HE NEEDED AND HAS DEPARTED OUR COUNTRY IN A DIGNIFIED MANNER TO VISIT PANAMA. FROM ALL THE REPORTS WE RECEIVE, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, HE IS VERY HAPPY THERE AND GREATLY APPRECIATES YOUR HOSPITALITY AND GRACIOUSNESS. WE HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL ASSIST IN THE EARLY RELEASE OF OUR HOSTAGES. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL, BUT THERE ARE SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

MY TWO VISITS WITH YOU REKINDLED OUR FRIENDSHIP AND ONLY STRENGTHENED MY FEELING FOR YOU AS A FRIEND AND AS A GREAT STATESMAN. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO VISIT YOU SOON AGAIN TO DISCUSS FURTHER SOME OF THE MATTERS THAT WE TOUCHED ON IN YOUR HOME.

I AM YOUR GRATEFUL AND ADMIRING FRIEND.

RESPECTFULLY,



HAMILTON JORDAN
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

APPROVED FOR DISPATCH

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
PER 5/2/95 NLC/HT RE MR-NLCCG-3
BY

303

*****~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~*****S COPY

OP IMMED
DE YEKADS #0108 3511843
O 171903Z DEC 79 ZFF-1 ZFF-4 ZYH
FM THE WHITE HOUSE

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ WH92258

AMBASSADOR MOSS: PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM HAMILTON JORDAN TO GENERAL TORRIJOS AT THE EARLIEST
OPPORTUNITY:

QUOTE:

TO: GENERAL DEAR TORRIJOS
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

DECEMBER 17, 1979

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RESPECTFULLY,
HAMILTON JORDAN

* * * * * W H S R C O M M E N T * * * * *

JORDAN

PSN:053482 PAGE 01 TOR:351/18:43Z DTG:171903Z DEC 79

*****~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~*****S COPY

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

PER 5/14/96 NLS H/RE MK-NLC-95-3
BY [Signature] NARS, DATE 6/12/96

~~*****CONFIDENTIAL*****~~ COPY

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

UNQUOTE
277

PSN:053482 PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:351/18:43Z DTG:171903Z DEC 79

~~*****CONFIDENTIAL*****~~ COPY

303

*****~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~*****S COPY

OP IMMED
DE YEKADS #0108 3511843
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HAMILTON JORDAN

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

JORDAN

PSN:053482

PAGE 01

TOR:351/13:43Z

DTG:171903Z DEC 79

*****~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~*****S COPY

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

PER 5/2/95 N4 H. RE MK-NLC-95-3

~~*****CONFIDENTIAL*****~~ COPY

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

UNQUOTE
277

PSN:0534R2 PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:351/18:43Z DTG:171903Z DEC 79

~~*****CONFIDENTIAL*****~~ COPY

SECRET



19 DEC 1972 17 28

Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~ N00276

PAGE 01 PANAMA 10330 191722Z
ACTION N003-00

COPY 13 OF 13 COPIES

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 /001 N

-----053179 191723Z 143

O 198718Z DEC 79 ZFF-A
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6418

~~SECRET~~ PANAMA 10330

N0013 CHEROKEE

FOR MR. RAPHEL

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/19/85 (MOSS, A.H.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, IR, PN, US
SUBJ: PANAMA-IRAN CONVERSATIONS

REF: PANAMA 10324

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AT 1200 I TOLD PRES ROYO THAT THE SECRETARY HAD CONSIDERED THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED THROUGH HIS INTERMEDIARY THAT A TRIPARTITE "COORDINATING COMMITTEE" BE ESTABLISHED; AND THAT, ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY VERY MUCH APPRECIATED ROYO'S INITIATIVES IN SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS, FRANKLY WE FELT THIS PLAN WOULD BE VERY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

3. I EXPLAINED THAT OUR POLICY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT WE WOULD NOT AGREE TO MEET WITH THE GOI UNTIL THEY HAD AGREED TO RELEASE THE HOSTAGES. I SAID THAT, JUST FOR HIS INFORMATION, THE PROPOSAL HAD ALL THE EARMARKS OF A SCHEME TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE EXTRADITION OF THE SHAH IN RETURN FOR THE PRISONERS' RELEASE.

4. ROYO SAID THAT HE WOULD LET HIS CONTACT KNOW THAT THE

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
PER 115795 SHK HRE MD-MLL-95-04
BY [Signature] NARS, DATE 2/27/05



Department of State

**INCOMING
TELEGRAM**

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 02

PANAMA 10330 191722Z

USG WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AGREEABLE TO THE PROPOSAL. I ADVISED HIM TO BE DEFINITE IN HIS STATEMENT SO THAT THE GOI DID NOT RECEIVE THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IT, MOSS

~~SECRET~~

18 DEC 79Z 22 59

003223



Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

NOU163

PAGE 01
ACTION NUDS-00

PANAMA 10306 182252Z

CCPY 1 OF 15 COPIES

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 /001 W

-----047230 182256Z 1/3

O 182247Z DEC 79 ZRP-4
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6412

S E C R E T PANAMA 10306

NUDIS

EYES ONLY FOR MR. RAPHEL (S)

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/18/85 (MOSS, A.H.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, PN, IR
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT ROYU ON IRAN

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. I MET WITH PRES ROYU AT 4:40PM AND REVIEWED EVENTS OF THE DAY. HE SAID HIS INTE EMISSARY, A FRENCH MUSLEM RESIDING IN PARIS, HAD CALLED EARLY THIS AFTERNOON AND SAID THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL WAS MEETING IN WDN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. ROYU ASKED THAT THE MESSAGE BE PASSED TO THE FORMIN THAT PANAMA WOULD NOT RPT NOT EXTRADITE THE SHAH BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP OUT WITH A "FACE-SAVING" PLAN TO HELP FREE THE HOSTAGES. IN LINE WITH HIS EARLIER STATEMENT TO ME THIS MORNUNG, ROYU ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE FORMIN NOT RPT NOT COME TO PANAMA BUT ACT THROUGH THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO (ROYU ADMITTED HE MIGHT BE WRONG ABOUT THAT AMBASSADOR'S ACCREDITATION TO PANAMA AND SAID HE ASSUMED SO BUT DID NOT REALLY KNOW).

3. AFTER OUR TALK, ROYU AGREED THAT HE WOULD DELAY ANY SCHEME AND WOULD CHECK WITH ME BEFORE AGREEING TO RECEIVE ANY IRANIAN EMISSARY OR EXTRADITION REQUEST. HE

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

PER 15/95 Stk HRE MR-NLC-95-04

BY [Signature] NARS DATE 2/27/95

SECRET



Department of State

**INCOMING
TELEGRAM**

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 02

PANAMA 10300 182202Z

UNDERSTANDS WE WANT TO "PLAY OTHER CARDS" FIRST.

4. COMMENT: THIS TALK INDICATES A NEW DIMENSION TO THE PANAMANIAN ROLE. ROYO EVIDENTLY HAS HIS OWN CHANNEL APART FROM THAT OF TORRIJOS AND MAY BE WORKING THE PROBLEM SEPARATELY. THIS MAY EXPLAIN TORRIJOS' DESIRE THAT I, NOT HE, GET ROYO ON FREQUENCY WITH OUR GAME PLAN. ROYO SAID THAT HE UNDERSTANDS WE MAY WISH TO "PLAY OTHER CARDS" BUT FRANKLY HOPES WE WILL TURN TO HIM "SO THAT PANAMA CAN PLAY THE ROLE OF FREEING THE HOSTAGES." MOSS

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM

February 26, 1980

SUBJECT: Call from Robert Armao

Attached is a memorandum of a telephone message from Robert Armao this morning.

About two hours later I spoke to Armao. By that time Morse had been released at the intervention of Ambassador Moss. Armao said he would withhold any public comment for the next couple of days and would be back in touch with us before going public. However, he says that he and his assistant Morse are "finished" and will have nothing further to do with assisting the Shah in Panama.

Armao said that the Shah himself is shocked by this latest event and terrified about his own personal safety, as is the Shabbanu. They have long since lost confidence in Col. Moriega, and they have now lost confidence in Torrijos as well. Armao asks on their behalf that arrangements be made "immediately" for them to leave Panama.

I told Armao that a move now was not feasible and that any public quarrel at this time would prejudice the present negotiations to obtain the release of the hostages. I said I would consult with Mr. Jordan and that we would make our views known most forcefully, and that we would strongly object to Panama concerning the treatment of Mr. Morse.

Handwritten initials: JMC

Feb. 26, 1980

12:50 pm

Mr. Armao called Mr. Cutler at 12:50 today to say one of his assistants has been taken into custody by the Panamanian authorities -- for what reason he either did not know or did not say.

Mr. Armao is extremely upset and has told the Shah that he intends to bring the treatment of his staff to the public scene. As he says, he does not intend to put up with the abuse that has been hurled at his people by the Panamanians any longer, and as a courtesy called the White House to tell you and Mr. Cutler what he is doing.

He is anxious to speak to you or Mr. Cutler as soon as possible. I expect Mr. Cutler to return to the office by 2:00.

Telephone number for Mr. Armao - 212 582 1525.

Attached is a description of the details of the above incident from Arnie Raphael in Secretary Vance's office.

1:20 pm

Arnie Raphel (Special Assistant to Secretary Vance)
called with the following:

Ambler Moss called him from Panama:

Mark Morse who is one of Armao's associates working with the Shah was arrested this morning by the Panamanian FBI. He was taken to Col. Moreiga's office where he is being detained (Moreiga is head of Panamanian security). Ambler has spoken with Moreiga who contends that Morse was "disrespectful" to the head of the Panamanian security force on Contadora.

Ambler is sending the head of the Consular Section down to Moreiga's office to arrange for Morse's release and is confident Morse will be released immediately.

Armao called Ambler and was highly incensed and said he would go public over this latest incident. Ambler calmed him down somewhat but Armao said he would talk with Cutler and/or Jordan.

Ambler and I think it important that either Cutler or Jordan talk with Armao to help calm him down. Ambler believes that if we point out that going public now might effect the national interest and be harmful to our efforts in Iran, that that will be enough to keep Armao from going public on this issue.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI 
SUBJECT: Letters of Appreciation to Panama
on the Shah

Hamilton asked Bob Pastor to draft three letters of appreciation from you to Royo, Torrijos, and Ambassador Moss. They are attached. Hertzberg has cleared them.



cc: Hamilton Jordan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

Dear Mr. President:

Your decision to invite the Shah to Panama is a demonstration of the graciousness and the magnanimity of the people of Panama.

The invitation to the Shah also demonstrates to the world that the relationship which our two countries developed during the negotiations for the Panama Canal Treaties is deep, genuine and mutually respectful. As Negotiator for Panama, you played a major role in forging our new relationship. As President of Panama, you have enriched that relationship greatly; it has become a model for industrialized and developing countries.

The United States has endured a terrible trauma during the last month while friends and colleagues have been held hostage in the United States Embassy in Iran. We hope that the Shah's stay in Panama will facilitate a solution to the crisis.

I have been pleased to note the forthright position on the issue of the hostages taken by your government at the OAS and the UN. I am certain that my gratitude for your generosity and your assistance is shared by all the people of my country.

Sincerely,

His Excellency Aristides Royo
President of the Republic of Panama
Panama

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12306, SEC. 3.4(b)
WHITE HOUSE GUIDELINES, FEB. 24, 1983
BY NARS, DATE 10/25/94

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1979

To Ambler Moss

I want you to know how much I personally appreciate your role in securing a place of temporary asylum for the Shah. The well-being of our people held hostage by the authorities in Iran has dominated the thoughts of the American people, uniting them in a manner seldom seen in our history. Throughout this crisis, I have sought to focus the world's attention on the unprecedented violation of diplomatic immunity and the inhumane treatment of our hostages in contravention of the most basic rules of international conduct. The arrangement you helped make possible will enable us to focus attention even more firmly on that central issue.

I am sending personal messages to President Royo and General Torrijos as well. Again, thank you for your efforts and support.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Ambler Moss
American Embassy
Panama City

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

To: Bob Pesta

Can you please draft
for me Presidential messages
to Tarigo, Royce at Amherst
Mass?

These messages are needed
and richly deserved. I
need them soon.

Thanks,

Haltz

When things settle down,
I'll give you a full
accounting.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Personal

Dear Senator Byrd:

I wanted to pass on to you an element of a conversation I had with General Torrijas during my recent trip to Panama.

After conveying the request for Panama to receive the Shah, one of the first questions the General asked was, "will an accepting the Shah be important to our Congressional friends, particularly Senator Byrd?"

I responded that I could not speak for you or the Congress, but that it was my strong feeling that you, as the Majority Leader of the Senate and the person most responsible for the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties, would be greatly appreciative if Panama could receive the Shah. This seemed to mean a lot to General Torrijas, and it seemed to me to be a major factor in his positive decision.

Respectfully,

Hamilton Jordan

Senator Byrd

Majority Leader of the United States Senate

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1980

File

Eyes Only

MEMORANDUM FOR HAMILTON JORDAN

FROM: BARBARA SACHS (Lloyd Cutler's
office)

SUBJECT: ROBERT ARMAO

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Mr. Armao is extremely upset and has told the Shah that he intends to bring the treatment of his staff to the public scene. As he says, he does not intend to put up with the abuse that has been hurled at his people by the Panamanians any longer, and as a courtesy called the White House to tell you and Mr. Cutler what he is doing.

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LDX MESSAGE RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sma
DEC 19 7 52

SITE

B

S/S #

RECEIVED

NOV 19 7:54

LDX MESSAGE NO. 008403

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

Sit. No. COM 2

FROM: WARREN CHRISTOPHER
(Officer name)

D
(office symbol) (Extension)

(Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION

LDX TO: (Agency)

DELIVER TO:

Extension

Room No.

WHITE HOUSE

HAMILTON JORDAN

REMARKS:

FOR:

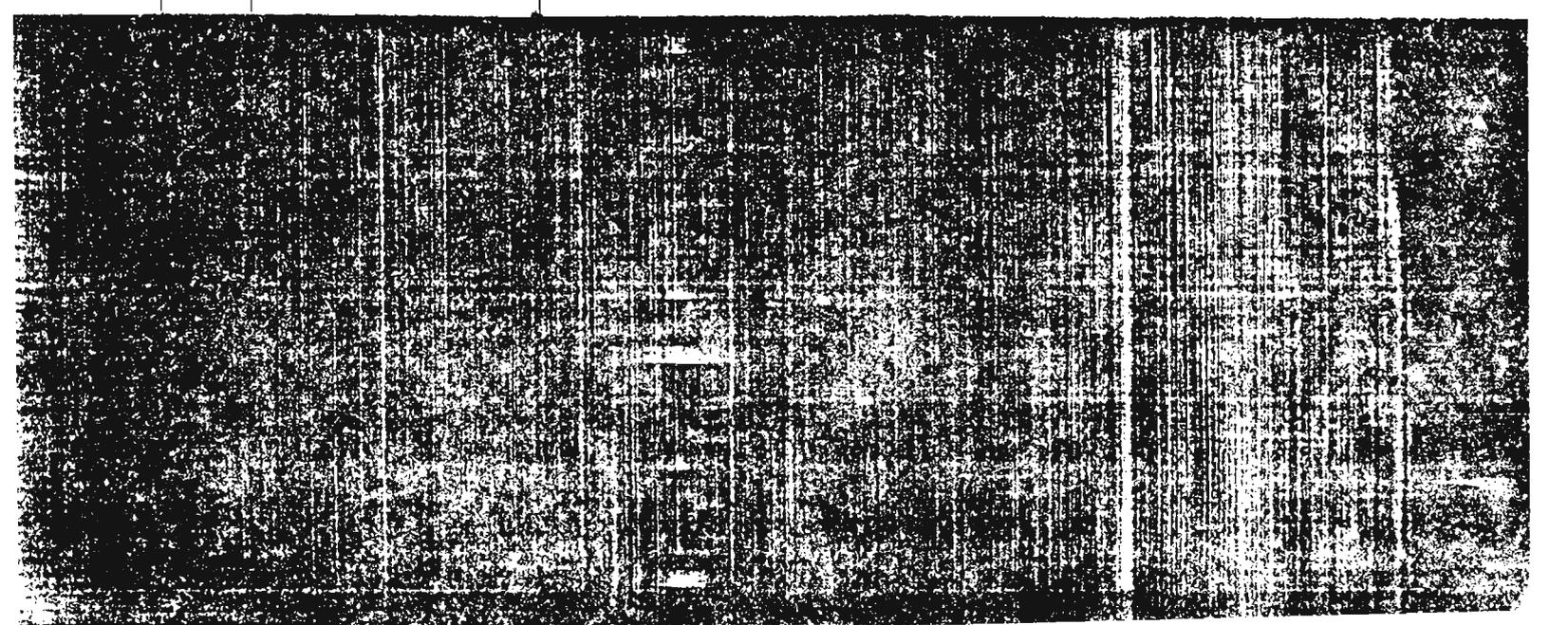
CLEARANCE

INFORMATION

PER REQUEST

COMMENT

S/S Officer: P. TARNOFF / babs





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 19, 1979

Ham:

Please let me have your reaction.

Warren Christopher

Attachment:

Draft letter.

Dear (To all major Presidential candidates):

In these days of prolonged crisis caused by the detention of our fellow Americans in Tehran, the President has asked us to offer you, as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States, a high-level briefing on the situation in Iran.

Therefore, I am pleased to invite you to receive a briefing on this issue at the Department of State at your earliest convenience. I am writing to all the other major declared Presidential candidates in the two leading political parties to propose the briefing as well.

If you wish to receive such a briefing, please contact the State Department's Executive Secretary, Peter Tarnoff; and we will arrange a mutually convenient time for the meeting.

Sincerely,