



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
S/S

#6

February 6, 1980

SECRET/NODIS

TO: The Secretary
FROM: NEA - Harold H. Saunders
SUBJECT: Iranian Update, February 6, 1980

Today's Objectives

-- To ascertain and assess the nature of discussions in Tehran.

Status of Initiatives

-- We reviewed in detail with five of the six returnees their activities in Tehran after November 4. Four Embassies -- Canadians, British, Swedish and New Zealand -- were involved in their protection and escape. Details of the New Zealand involvement may have been compromised when documents were taken in the break-in at their Embassy yesterday. The Danish Ambassador was closely informed of the activities of the six, but was apparently not involved in assisting them.

-- From their description of the last hour in the Consulate it is still not clear whether or not all of the visa plates were destroyed. Our doubt centers on whether the consular officers who were captured returned to the premises after leaving it to destroy materials. Three of the captured personnel separately told some of the 13 returnees that all classified material had been destroyed.

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-- When they delivered the letter of appreciation at the Canadian Embassy today the Staffords and Lijeks were invited to Toronto to appear on the Canadian "Today" Show. We have impressed on them the need to stay out of Canadian politics and to coordinate with us any future public activities. They readily agreed and plan to fade away to their home towns very shortly.

-- Our assessment is that the meeting with the families had a net positive effect. Many naturally remain deeply frustrated, but the opportunity to come together and be briefed was sincerely appreciated. The concluding church service appears to have had a very beneficial effect.

-- According to a news item just in, the Revolutionary Council has set the first stage of the Parliamentary elections for March 7. A Runoff would probably come before Iranian New Year's day on March 21. This three week delay in the election probably represents part of a compromise between the Council and Bani Sadr. The Council members, especially the religious figures, may have got the postponement of the election they sought while Bani Sadr has been given immediate executive authority being named chairman of the Council today.

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