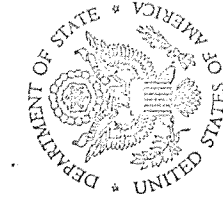


DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 12958

By W. KARA Date 10/12/01



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02506 02 OF 02 131316Z

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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 2506

EXDIS - NOFORN

6. I TOLD WRIGHT THAT MY ESTIMATE OF SITUATION WAS SAME AS HIS. I AGREED FURTHER INDEFINITE DRIFT WOULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF RADICAL ARABS, JEOPARDIZING FUTURE PEACE AND STABILITY IN GULF AND SURVIVAL OF MODERATE ARAB REGIMES, ON WHICH VITAL INTERESTS OF BRITAIN AND FREE WORLD HEAVILY DEPEND. ALSO AGREED WITH WRIGHT THAT OUR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SHOULD BE HELD IN STRICTEST SECRECY.

7. WHILE WHAT WRIGHT TOLD ME SHOULD IN NO RPT NO CASE BE REPORTED TO BRITISH, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF DEPT AND EMBASSY LONDON COULD MAKE APPROPRIATE EARLY OCCASION TO STRESS TO BRITISH AT HIGH LEVEL THAT MAJOR EFFORT BY UK WITH SHEIKHS AT THIS CRITICAL TIME TO BRING ABOUT AGREEMENT WITH IRAN SEEMS

VITALLY IMPORTANT. VITALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT SEEMS CLEAR SHAH WILL NEVER WILLINGLY RISK HAVING THESE ISLANDS WHICH

CONTROL MOUTH OF GULF FALLING INTO UNFRIENDLY HANDS. THIS MEANS THAT IF AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED, SHAH MAY, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER BRITISH WITHDRAWAL, BE TEMPTED TO OCCUPY ISLANDS. IF HE SHOULD DO SO BEFORE BRITISH PULL OUT, THEY WOULD BE FACED WITH PROSPECT OF RESPONDING WITH FORCE OR ABANDONING SHEIKHS. IF IRAN SHOULD SEIZE ISLANDS SUBSEQUENTLY

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

~~SECRET~~

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E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5  
NLN 01-26/15 per Ltr. 13 Dec. 04  
By [REDACTED] Date 23 APR 2007  
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