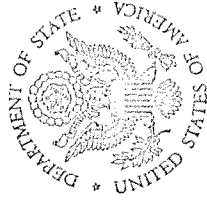


DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 12958

By AM KARA Date 12-12-01

Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 02506 01 OF 02 131256Z

ARAB REGIMES, PARTICULARLY SAUDI ARABIA BUT ALSO KUWAIT AND SHEIKHDOMS.

2. FOLLOWING FAVORABLE ARAB REACTION TO IRAN'S STATESMANLIKE ACTION RE BAHREIN AND UNTIL ILL-CONCEIVED ACTION OF KUWAIT GOVT IN (A) ORDERING PUBLICATION OF PRO-IRAQI, ANTI-IRAN ARTICLE IN KUWAIT PRESS (REFTEL A) AND (B) ENDEAVORING TO HARDEN SHEIKS AGAINST AGREEMENT WITH IRAN RE ABU MUSA AND TUNBS AND SUBSEQUENT UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED IN REFTEL B AND OTHER MESSAGES (INCLUDING ONE IN ANOTHER CHANNEL) WE HAD VIEWED PROSPECT OF IRAN-GULF ARAB COOPERATION IN GENERAL AND POSSIBILITY OF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT OVER TUNBS AND ABU MUSA WITH RESTRAINED OPTIMISM, PARTICULARLY AFTER FONMIN INFORMED ME CONFIDENTIALLY IRAN PREPARED TO FUZZ SOVEREIGNTY OF THESE ISLANDS. IN LIGHT, HOWEVER, OF ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, SITUATION SEEMS TO HAVE DETERIORATED AT A MOST CRITICAL TIME. I SAY "CRITICAL TIME" BECAUSE FOLLOWING BAHREIN SETTLEMENT THE LONGER TIME DRAGS ALONG WITHOUT AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND SHARJA AND RAS-AL-KHAIMAHSC ISLANDS, THE MORE DIFFICULT SUCH AGREEMENT WILL BE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF SKILLFUL IRAQ MANEUVERS USING KUWAIT AS PAWN AND, OF COURSE, IRAQI EFFORTS WILL BE SUPPORTED BY DRUMFIRE OF RADICAL ARAB PROPAGANDA (AND POSSIBLY ALSO RUSSIAN PRESSURES IN CASE OF KUWAIT) AGAINST ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND MODERATE ARAB STATES IN GULF, PARTICULARLY AGREEMENT RE GULF ISLANDS BUT ALSO MORE GENERAL AGREEMENTS RE COOPERATION WHICH COULD STRENGTHEN ABILITY OF MODERATE ARAB REGIMES IN GULF TO SURVIVE.

3. IN LIGHT FOREGOING, I MET PRIVATELY JUNE 11 WITH BRITISH AMB WRIGHT TO REVIEW OVER-ALL SITUATION AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENTS RE TUNBS AND ABU MUSA. WRIGHT ALSO BELIEVES SITUATION MOST CRITICAL AND THAT NEXT FEW WEEKS MAY TELL THE STORY. IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE HE TOLD ME THERE FURTHER ADVERSE DEVELOPMENT IN THAT RULER OF RAS-AL-KHAIMAH SEVERAL DAYS AGO INFORMED BRITISH HE PLANNED VISIT BAGHDAD DESPITE STRONG URGING BY BRITISH RESIDENT IN GULF NOT RPT NOT TO MAKE SUCH A TRIP. FOLLOWING BRITISH RESIDENT'S REPORT TO BRITISH FONOFF, LATTER SENT FURTHER STRONG INSTRUCTION TO RESIDENT TO PRESS RULER VERY HARD TO ABANDON BAGHDAD TRIP.

4. LONDON ALSO INSTRUCTED WRIGHT TO SEE SHAH "TO CALM HIM DOWN" RE TUNBS AND ABU MUSA. WRIGHT FEARS (AND I CONCUR)

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

~~SECRET~~

[p. 2 of 3]

EXD IS EXD IS EXD IS EXD IS