

S E C R E T/NODIS

TEHRAN 5952

REF NUMBER #5952 159**
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE.1900
BT
S E C R E T TEHRAN 05952

CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: STATE 6/8/79
APPRV: CHARG:CWNAAS
DRFTD: CHARGE:CWNAAS:MA
CLEAR: NONE
DISTR: CHG

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 12065: XDS-3 6/8/99 (NAAS, C.W.) OR-M
TAGS: IR, US
SUBJECT: U.S. POSTURE IN FORTHCOMING MONTHS

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE, I HAVE SENT YOU A FAIRLY GLOOMY
OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION HERE. FOLLOWING ARE MY THOUGHTS
ON HOW WE SHOULD POSTURE OURSELVES IN THE SUMMER MONTHS
AHEAD. ONE CANNOT PRACTICALLY LOOK FURTHER THAN THAT.

gloomy

3. GENERAL APPROACH TO PGCI:

--I HAVE TAKEN A FAIRLY ACTIVIST APPROACH SINCE MY RETURN
TO POST, E.G., CALLING ON MANY MINISTERS AND SPELLING OUT
OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE REVOLUTION, ETC. I HAVE BEEN
GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED, BUT THE CENTRALITY OF KHOMEINI
AND THE TUMULTUOUS IRANIAN REACTION TO THE SENATE RESOLU-
TION HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY NEGATED ANY GOOD DONE.

--I BELIEVE THE NEW CHARGE SHOULD RETURN TO A LOW PROFILE.
LET THE IRANIS TAKE THE INITIATIVES WHEN THEY REALIZE
THAT THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH US. IT
IS LIKELY THAT THOSE CLOSE TO KHOMEINI, CERTAINLY THE MANY
IRANIAN OPPOSED TO HIM, SEE US AS EAGER TO PROPITIATE HIM
AND, THEREFORE, WILLING TO ENDURE MUCH ABUSE.

--DISTANCE IS ALSO CALLED FOR IN VIEW OF MY ASSESSMENT
(SEPTEL) THAT WE CAN CURRENTLY HAVE LITTLE POSITIVE LONG

TERM IMPACT ON THE SITUATION HERE. WE SHOULD NOT BECOME IDENTIFIED WITH THE KIND OF STATE AND POLICIES KHOMEINI IS CREATING AND WHICH ARE UNLIKELY TO ENDURE OVER THE LONG TERM.

—I DO NOT FAVOR THE DESPATCH OF AN EMISSARY TO KHOMEINI UNLESS PGOI TAKES THE INITIATIVE. AN EMISSARY WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO OPPORTUNITY NOR CHANCE OF AFFECTING HIS MIND-SET AND IT WOULD BE SEEN AS A FURTHER KNUCKLING DOWN TO HIS BRAND OF EXTREMISM.

—EMBASSY STAFF, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, SHOULD MAINTAIN ITS FORMERLY FAIRLY WIDESPREAD CONTACTS.

—THE DIALOGUE SHOULD CONTINUE WITH THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP AS A SIGN OF GOOD WILL AND, IF SPARE PARTS ORDERS ARE SUBMITTED, WE SHOULD BE REASONABLY FORTHCOMING (TO THE EXTENT CONGRESSIONAL OPINION WILL PERMIT).

—THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD AVOID PUBLIC COMMENT ON IRAN INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE AND, WHEN IT IS NECESSARY TO COMMENT, TAKE A BLAND "WE LOOK FORWARD TO IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS" LINE.

—WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO A STRICT POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE FOR THE TIME BEING. THE BODY POLITIC IS SIMPLY TOO FRACTURED TO DO ANYTHING ELSE.

STAFFING—THE DECISION TO DENAY APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AMBASSADOR IS JUST RIGHT. A LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER ARRIVAL WOULD BE A GOOD TARGET DATE.

—EMBASSY STAFF SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED AND POSSIBLE SHOULD BE DECREASED; ONLY REPLACEMENTS OF CURRENT STAFF SHOULD COME HERE THIS SUMMER. OTHERS ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY SHOULD BE HELD IN WAITING PATTERN TO SEE HOW SITUATION ENVOLVES.

—WIVES AND CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL HERE UNTIL A NEW AMBASSADOR CAN MAKE HIS OWN ASSESSMENT.

—CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CONSULAR QUARTERS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BUT FULL CONSULAR SERVICES SHOULD NOT BE RESUMED UNTIL THE NEW AMBASSADOR ARRIVES. VISA SERVICES ARE ONE THING WE HAVE THE IRANIANS WANT. CONTINUATION OF OUR PRESENT LIMITED SERVICES IS A SMALL SIGNAL OF OUR DISPLEASURE. NAAS

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