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Subject copy filed on - Iran Situation Pt 5.

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**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**
SERIAL No. T 71/80

TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON
TELNO.621 OF 29 MARCH,
INFO IMMEDIATE: TEHRAN TOKYO OTTAWA AND E.C POSTS.

MY TELNO.160 TO PARIS AND WASHINGTON TELNO.1281:
REPLY TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE OF 25 MARCH.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT
CATER. PLEASE ARRANGE DELIVERY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BEGINS:

I HAVE STUDIED WITH CARE YOUR LETTER OF 25 MARCH AND ITS
REQUEST FOR OUR ACTIVE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN THE EFFORT TO
SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE U.S HOSTAGES IN TEHRAN. THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE HAVE THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY WITH YOU OVER
THE TRAGIC PREDICAMENT OF THE HOSTAGES. WE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING
WE CAN TO HELP.

I SHALL SHORTLY BE COMMUNICATING WITH PRESIDENT BANI SADR
IN ORDER TO CONVEY TO HIM THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH I VIEW THE
PRESENT GRAVE SITUATION. I SHALL BE POINTING OUT TO HIM THAT
MY GOVERNMENT EXPECT HIM TO CONTINUE WITH HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE
THE EARLY RELEASE OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. I WILL STRESS THAT
THE PATIENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAS BEEN REMARKABLE, BUT
THAT IT IS NOT INEXHAUSTIBLE AND WILL SAY THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT
PROLONGATION OF THE PRESENT STALEMATE MAY WELL HAVE THE MOST
DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES.

AS PART OF OUR EFFORT TO GIVE YOU THE SUPPORT FOR WHICH YOU
ASK, I WILL ENCOURAGE THE HEADS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO WRITE O
PRESIDENT BANI SADR IN SIMILAR TERMS.

I SHARE YOUR HOPE THAT AN APPROACH OF THIS KIND, MADE BY
A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS, MAY HAVE A REAL IMPACT IN
TEHRAN. BUT IT MUST BE GIVEN TIME TO WORK. PRECIPITATE ACTION
AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE COULD WELL HAVE EFFECTS CONTRARY TO THOSE
WHICH WE ARE ALL SEEKING. IN PARTICULAR, THE LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS
WHICH WOULD FOLLOW THE BREAKING OFF OF RELATIONS WOULD REDUCE OUR
SCOPE FOR ACTION AIMED AT THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. MOREOVER,
THE IRANIANS HAVE NOT YET HAD TIME TO DIGEST THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
THE SHAH'S MOVE TO EGYPT. IT WOULD ALSO, IN MY VIEW, BE WRONG TO
HAVE THE LAST PHASE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN IRAN TAKE PLACE
IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE CANDIDATES WERE COMPETING WITH EACH
OTHER IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE UNITED STATES. TO DO SO WOULD
BE TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW ASSEMBLY MET IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF TOTAL
HOSTILITY TO YOUR COUNTRY.

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I KNOW THAT YOU ARE FULLY ALIVE TO THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. IN MY VIEW THERE IS AN APPRECIABLE RISK OF A RAPID AND SERIOUS GROWTH OF TENSION IN THE AREA. GREATER INVOLVEMENT ON YOUR PART COULD BRING IN ITS TRAIN A SOVIET REACTION WITH ALL THE THAT WOULD IMPLY. WE MUST SURELY BE CONCERNED TO AVOID THIS. I HOPE THEREFORE THAT DESPITE THE PRESSURES THAT YOU ARE UNDER, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PERSEVERE FOR A LITTLE LONGER WITH THE POLICY THAT CAME SO CLOSE TO SUCCESS A FEW WEEKS AGO.

IF HOWEVER OUR JOINT EFFORTS FAIL, IF THE CONVENING OF THE NEW IRANIAN PARLIAMENT DOES NOT BRING A SOLUTION AND IF YOU CONSIDER THAT FURTHER ACTION IS NEEDED, THEN MY GOVERNMENT WILL OF COURSE GIVE YOU ITS SUPPORT. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS WOULD NEED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF THE CLOSEST CONSULTATION. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE CO-ORDINATE OUR ACTIONS ON THESE VITAL ISSUES AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO REMAINING IN THE CLOSEST TOUCH WITH YOU IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD.

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