

T14/79T



CCFCO MFS

10 DOWNING STREET

Ops.
Subject on Iran:
May 79

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 May 1979

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T14/79T

Dear President Carter,

Thank you for writing to me about the position of the Jewish community in Iran. I and my colleagues fully share your concern about this issue and have followed with anxiety the numerous reports of trials and executions.

Since you wrote, some leaders of the Jewish community are reported to have received assurances from Ayatollah Khomeini for their safety. While we cannot necessarily accept these at their face value the view of our Embassy, who have I know been in close touch with your Embassy in Tehran on this question, is that the present difficulties being experienced by the Jewish community, while naturally arousing anxiety, do not amount to an organised campaign of persecution. In this situation an approach specifically on behalf of the Iranian Jewish community could indeed make their position less secure.

I believe therefore that we can best help by continuing to watch the situation very carefully and be ready to take prompt action with the Iranian authorities if we see a serious deterioration in the position of the Jewish community. To have a useful effect, such approaches should, I believe

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come from as many quarters as possible within the international community; and should focus on the general issues of security of minorities and standards of justice, which of course encompass the rights of Iranian Jewry to fair and equal treatment.

I hope that we can keep in touch on all aspects of the complex and unstable situation which now prevails in Iran.

(Signed) Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

The President of the United States of America.