



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

The odds are that representations at this stage could do more harm than good. Agree to reply to President Carter in the terms of the attached draft?

21 May 1979

Dear Bryan,

Jewish Community in Iran

See riddle markings on draft
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[0]

Thank you for your letter of 15 May, with which you enclosed a message from President Carter to the Prime Minister about the Jewish community in Iran. I attach a draft letter in reply which the Prime Minister may care to send. As you will see, in the light of Tehran telegram no 608 (a copy of which is enclosed) we consider that representations are not appropriate at this stage. We understand that the French and the Holy See hold a similar view. But the Embassy in Tehran are keeping a close eye on the position of the Jewish and other minorities in Iran. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in contact with various Jewish interests in this country who have voiced concern.

Jos over,
Stephen

(J S Wall)

ant

B G Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: LETTER
minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

PRIME MINISTER

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRESIDENT CARTER

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

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.

~~We also have to recognise that the Iranians have shown great sensitivity ever since the revolution over the representations which we and other Western countries have made on various occasions about the trial and execution of political detainees.~~

In this ^{situation} ~~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 keep a very close eye on the situation, and be ready to take prompt action with the Iranian

/authorities

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Can't we just tell them?

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authorities if we see a serious deterioration in the position of the Jewish community. To have a useful effect, such approaches should, I believe, 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.