

X-33

IRAN: ADVANCE COPIES

PS
PS/SIR I GILMOUR
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
MR J C MOBERLY
LORD BRIDGES
HD/MED
HD/FRD
HD/NENAD
HD/UND (2)
HD/OID (2)
HD/DEF DEPT

HD/ES & SD (2)

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST
SIR R ARMSTRONG)
ASSESSMENTS STAFF) CABINET
MR R WADE (ERY) OFFICE
MR LE CHEMINANT)
MR P G FOWLER (R217)
CABINET OFFICE DIO
MR F R BARRATT TREASURY

MISS BROWN
PUSD (2)
NEWS DEPT
RESIDENT CLERK

IMMEDIATE

DB 220900Z

ADVANCE COPY

OO FCO DESKBY 220900Z
OO TEHRAN

GR 300A
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 220900Z
FM UKMIS NEW YORK 212025Z DEC 79
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TEL NUMBER 1940 OF 21 DECEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE TEHRAN WASHINGTON

Prime Minister (2)

22.12.79

2126

MY TELNO 1919: IRAN

1. AT TODAY'S INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON RHODESIA, THE SECRETARY GENERAL GAVE A REPORT ON HIS LATEST EXCHANGES WITH THE IRANIAN LEADERSHIP.

2. WQALDHEIM SAID THAT HE HAD SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO KHOMEINI ON 19 DECEMBER APPEALING THAT SOME AT LEAST OF THE HOSTAGES SHOULD BE RELEASED FOR CHRISTMAS. HE OFFERED TO FLY HIMSELF TO TEHRAN IMMEDIATELY TO SEE KHOMEINI. HE HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. HE HAD ALSO HAD ALMOST DAILY CONVERSATIONS WITH FARHANG, THE NEW IRANIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE HERE.

REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. HE HAD ALSO HAD ALMOST DAILY CONVERSATIONS WITH FARHANG, THE NEW IRANIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE HERE. FARHANG HAD OFFERED A FEW SUGGESTIONS 'FOR BREAKING THE ICE' BUT THESE HAD NOT LED ANYWHERE. THE IDEA OF 'A UN DELEGATION' (WHICH TAKE TO BE THE PLOY DESCRIBED IN MY TEL UNER REFERENCE) HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY KHOMEINI, ALTHOUGH IT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN QOTBZADEH'S IDEA.

3. IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION TODAY, WALDHEIM HAD TRIED TO FIND OUT FROM QOTBZADEH EXACTLY WHAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAD DECIDED YESTERDAY. QOTBZADEH HAD BEEN VAGUE, BUT HIS TONE HAD INDICATED THAT THE DECISIONS WERE NOT HELPFUL. THE ONLY SPECIFIC POINT HAD BEEN THAT PRIESTS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO VISIT THE HOSTAGES OVER CHRISTMAS. THERE HAD BEEN NO CLEAR RESPONSE TO WALDHEIM'S REITERATED REQUEST THAT SOME OF THE HOSTAGES SHOULD BE RELEASED BEFORE OR DURING CHRISTMAS. QOTBZADEH HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO HELP, BUT IT SEEMED THAT HIS INFLUENCE WITH KHOMEINI WAS LIMITED.

4. THE AMERICANS HAD TOLD US BEFORE THE MEETING THAT THEY WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE COUNCIL ON 26 DECEMBER, BUT NEITHER THEY NOR ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SAID ANYTHING IN RESPONSE TO WALDHEIM'S REPORT. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THEY THOUGHT, FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, THAT THEY WOULD PRESS ON IN THE COUNCIL EVEN IF THEY DID NOT HAVE THE VOTES.

PARSONS

NNNN