

IRAN: ADVANCE COPIES

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 252300Z NOV

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 3889 OF 25 NOVEMBER

INFORMATION ROUTINE TEHRAN, ISLAMABAD AND UK MIS NEW YORK.

IRAN : THE U.S.A. AND THEIR ALLIES.

1. WHEN I SAW VANCE TODAY I REFERRED TO THE TENDENCY OF U.S. NEWS COMMENTATORS TO SAY THAT THE U.S.A. WAS NOT GETTING THE SUPPORT OVER IRAN FROM THEIR ALLIES TO WHICH THEY WERE ENTITLED. I HAD JUST SEEN THE SATURDAY EVENING TV PROGRAMME IN WHICH THE ALLIES HAD BEEN EXPLICITLY CHARGED WITH A LACK OF SOLIDARITY. I ADDED THAT I KNEW THAT A LOT OF THINGS COULD NOT BE REVEALED BECAUSE IT MIGHT BE SELF-DEFEATING TO DO SO, BUT PERHAPS WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER HE COULD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT PUBLICLY. IT WOULD NOT HELP IF A LEGEND WAS ALLOWED TO DEVELOP THAT THE U.S.A. HAD BEEN LET DOWN BY THEIR FRIENDS AT A MOMENT OF GREAT DIFFICULTY, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE OPPOSITE WAS THE TRUTH, BOTH IN TEHRAN AND ISLAM-ABAD.

2. VANCE SAID THAT HE WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THIS. HE HAD NOTHING BUT BAD TO SAY OF THE TV COMMENTATORS AND MANY OF THE COLUMNISTS. HE WOULD CERTAINLY SEE THAT JUSTICE WAS DONE. IN FACT HE WOULD BE CALLING IN THE EDITORS NEXT WEEK. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WERE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE HELP THEY HAD RECEIVED, AND HE WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF EVERY THING OUR MISSIONS HAD DONE IN IRAN AND PAKISTAN. HE THEN SPELT OUT SOME OF THE PARTICULAR STEPS THAT WE HAD TAKEN, AND WERE TAKING, TO ASSIST THE U.S. AUTHORITIES. HIS PRAISE AND

AWARE OF EVERY THING OUR MISSIONS HAD DONE IN IRAN AND PAKISTAN. HE THEN SPELT OUT SOME OF THE PARTICULAR STEPS THAT WE HAD TAKEN, AND WERE TAKING, TO ASSIST THE U.S. AUTHORITIES. HIS PRAISE AND GRATITUDE WERE UNSTINTED. HE ALSO SAID HOW VERY FORTUNATE IT WAS THAT TONY PARSONS WAS AT THE U.N. NO-ONE KNEW MORE ABOUT IT OR COULD GIVE SOUNDER ADVICE.

3. WITHOUT WANTING TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF IT BECAUSE THESE THINGS ARE CHANGING AND INTANGIBLE, I THINK THAT IN HELPING THE U.S. AUTHORITIES DURING THEIR PRESENT CRISIS, SOMETHING WE HAVE DONE WILLINGLY AND SPONTANEOUSLY, WITHOUT ANY CALCULATION OF SELF-INTEREST, HMG MAY HAVE ADDED TO THEIR STOCK OF DIPLOMATIC CAPITAL HERE AND THAT THIS MAY STAND US IN GOOD STEAD ON SOME OTHER OCCASION.

HENDERSON

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