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DESKBY 170500Z TEHRAN

FM FCO 161648Z MAY 79

TO IMMEDIATE TEHRAN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 367 OF 16 MAY

AND TO WASHINGTON, PARIS AND THE VATICAN.

YOUR TEL NO 589: PARA 4

IRAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

*Enter me
GJM
18/5*

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO JOIN IN MAKING URGENT PRIVATE REPRESENTATIONS TO IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TO HELP ASSURE THE SAFETY OF IRANIAN JEWS. THE PRESIDENT CLAIMS TO HAVE NUMEROUS REPORTS SINCE ELGHANIAN'S EXECUTION THAT PROMINENT JEWS ARE BEING ARRESTED AND ARE TO BE TRIED. THE PRESIDENT REFERS TO PREVIOUS ASSURANCES GIVEN BY KHOMEINI, BAZARGAN AND OTHERS THAT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WOULD BE PROTECTED. APPARENTLY SIMILAR APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT GISCARD AND THE POPE.
2. BEFORE WE DECIDE WHAT RECOMMENDATION TO PUT TO NUMBER 10 IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS. IN YOUR TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE YOU GAVE A FAIRLY REASSURING PICTURE OF THE POSITION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ON THE BASIS OF WHICH, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BROADER ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IRANIAN REGIME, AN APPROACH ON BEHALF OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AT THIS POINT MAY NOT SEEM NECESSARY. BUT WE CERTAINLY WANT TO KEEP THE POSITION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN IRAN UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW. WE ARE ALREADY FACING CONSIDERABLE PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE ELGHANIAN AFFAIR.
3. IF IT WERE DECIDED THAT AN INTERVENTION ON SIMILAR LINES TO THAT PROPOSED BY THE AMERICANS WAS JUSTIFIED, OUR INCLINATION WOULD BE TO TAKE UP THE SAFETY OF ALL RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, INCLUDING THE JEWS, RATHER THAN PLEADING FOR THEIR CAUSE ALONE.

/4. YOUR

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4. YOUR SHOULD NOT AT THIS STAGE REVEAL THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH TO YOUR US OR FRENCH COLLEAGUES, BUT IF YOU OR PARIS CAN DISCOVER ANYTHING OF WHAT THE FRENCH MAY HAVE IN MIND ON THE SCORE OF THE JEWS IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW. COULD THE VATICAN MAKE SIMILAR ENQUIRIES?

5. GRATEFUL FOR A REPLY BY 171700Z.

CARRINGTON

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