

cc B. Ingham

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T140/79T

OPS  
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Internal Situation

November 12, 1979

Dear Prime Minister:

I will shortly be making a statement announcing that, in the interest of removing oil as an issue in our efforts to free the American hostages held in Iran, the U.S. will discontinue buying crude oil from Iran for importation into the United States. This is intended to demonstrate that the issues at stake are protection of our citizens abroad, an end to the use of hostages for political purposes, and respect for diplomatic personnel and property.

I also seek to demonstrate by this measure the willingness of the United States to make sacrifices in responding to situations of the kind we currently face in Iran. I will point out that this, once again, shows the need for the United States to reduce its dependence on foreign oil supplies.

Our highest priority is to secure the release of the hostages. Therefore, we are removing from that issue the question of oil supplies to the United States by Iran. In addition, the importance of restoring stability to the world oil market continues to be a fundamental objective of U.S. policy.

I know that you share our concerns about the situation in Tehran, and I wanted you particularly to have an explanation of this latest step.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter