

GPS 845
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM TEHRAN 061440Z NOV 79
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

Rennie Amster

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1092 OF 6 NOVEMBER
TO IMMEDIATE CABINET OFFICE (DIO), MODUK DS11, MODUK D14,
PUSD,

PRIORITY WASHINGTON

ROUTINE BAHRAIN, ABU DHABI, DUBAI, DOHA, ANKARA, KUWAIT,
MUSCAT, BAGHDAD, JEDDA, KABUL, NEW DELHI, ISLAMABAD.

MY TELEGRAM NO 1079: US/IRAN RELATIONS

am

1. THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE OF THE DAY. BAZARGAN'S GOVERNMENT HAS FINALLY GIVEN UP, PRESUMABLY PUSHED BEYOND ENDURANCE BY THE DISAVOWAL OF THE BAZARGAN/ BRZEZINSKI MEETING AND ITS IMPOTENCE OVER THE LEGALLY INDEFENSIBLE OCCUPATION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. KHOMEINI CONTINUES BITTERLY TO ASSAIL THE US, AND THE CRY IS ECHOED BY THE MEDIA AND DEMONSTRATORS IN THE STREETS. (THERE ARE FEARS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE US CHARGE' , SINCE IT IS NOW WIDELY KNOWN THAT HE IS IN THE MFA (AND A RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE RADIO IS REPORTED TO HAVE DESCRIBED HIM AS A SPY AND TO HAVE CALLED FOR HIS SURRENDER).

2. YAZDI FINALLY SAW LAINGEN LAST NIGHT BUT DID LITTLE BEYOND REITERATING THE LINE IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER IN THE DAY, IN WHICH HE TRIMMED TO THE KHOMEINI LINE ON ALL COUNTS, SAYING IN ANSWERS TO A QUESTION, THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HIMSELF FAVOUR BREAKING OF RELATIONS WITH THE US, HE WOULD DO SO IF THIS WAS THE DECISION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER , AS A MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, HE WILL REMAIN IN CHARGE OF THE MFA.

3. THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES REMAIN OUT OF CONTACT. THEIR CAPTORS REFUSED TO SEE THE DANISH, SPANISH AND PAKISTANI AMBASSADORS WHO OFFERED THEIR GOOD OFFICES, AND THERE ARE SIGNS THAT KHOMEINI, INSTEAD OF SOFTENING (MY TUR), IS UNDER PRESSURE TO ENDORSE

CONFIDENTIAL

/THE LINE

CONFIDENTIAL

THE LINE TAKEN BY THE CAPTORS, WHO MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY UNDER HIS CONTROL, THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR CLAIMS TO HAVE EVIDENCE OF THIS ON THE BASIS OF A DISCUSSION BETWEEN KHOMEINI AND A GERMAN JOURNALIST, IN WHICH KHOMEINI RECOGNIZED HIS DUTY TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF DIPLOMATS, BUT NOT DIPLOMATIC PREMISES).

4. THE IRANO-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS ADVISED AMERICAN MEMBERS TO LEAVE THEIR PREMISES BECAUSE OF INSTANCES OF AMERICANS BEING ARRESTED BY REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS. PAN AM HAVE EVACUATED THEIR STAFF FROM IRAN AND CEASED OPERATIONS.

5. THE ABROGATION OF THE 1959 AND 1921 AGREEMENTS WITH THE USA AND USSR RESPECTIVELY WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (UNILATERALLY, AT LEAST IN THE CASE OF THE AMERICANS: THE US CHARGE HAS RECEIVED NO COMMUNICATION).

6. THE SITUATION IS THEREFORE TENSE AND THE PROSPECT SOMBRE. GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY IS IN QUESTION. THE EFFICIENCY OF RULE BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS YET TO BE PROVED. THE ABILITY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS TO DEAL WITH THREATS TO ORDER MUST BE IN DOUBT. KHOMEINI AND THE MASSES WHO SUPPORT HIM ARE DEVELOPING AN INCREASINGLY FERVENT PHOBIA ABOUT THE RETURN OF THE SHAH AND AMERICAN POLICY IN GENERAL, ON WHICH IT IS HARD TO SEE THEM WINNING ANY SATISFACTION.

7. (FCO AND WASHINGTON ONLY) PLEASE SEE MIFT
WYATT

FILES
MED
NENAD
DEF D
CONS D
CONS EM UNIT
SED
N AM D
PUSD
MAED
ES & SD
OID
UND
IPD
NEWS D

PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR HURD
PS/PUS
SIR J GRAHAM
MR FIGG
MR J C MOBERLY

ADDITIONAL DISTN.
TEHRAN SPECIAL