

IRAN: ADVANCE COPIES

36


IMMEDIATE

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~~MR J C ROBERTLY~~ *M. B. Burns*  
 LORD BRIDGES  
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 MR F R BARRATT TREASURY

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 INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON  
 INFO PRIORITY EEC. POSTS.

*Amie Austin*  


MY TELNO 1344 PARA 1 : IRANIAN REACTIONS TO THE MOVE  
 OF THE SHAH.

- AS REPORTED, FIRST REACTIONS HERE WERE IN A LOW KEY. THE STUDENTS COMMENTED AS REPORTED BUT DESPITE THE ADVANCE WARNING, IT SEEMED THAT AN OFFICIAL LINE HAD NOT BEEN FULLY WORKED OUT. HOWEVER, OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS IT SEEMS THAT THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES UP TO AND INCLUDING THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAVE DECIDED TO TREAT THE SHAH'S MOVE TO PANAMA AS A VICTORY FOR IRAN. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED ON THE NIGHT OF 16 DECEMBER, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SAID INTER ALIA, "THE HEROIC RESISTANCE OF THE .... IRANIAN PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF THE AGGRESSIONS OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, AND THE WISE LEADERSHIP OF THE IMAM... FORCED THE US TO RETREAT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT ..... PERSUADED THE SHAH TO RUN AWAY, ACCEPTING DEFEAT".
- SIMILARLY, GOTTBZADEH TOLD PARS NEWS AGENCY THAT SAME DAY



2. SIMILARLY, QOTBZADEH TOLD PARS NEWS AGENCY THAT SAME DAY THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAD YIELDED TO PRESSURE FROM THE IRANIAN PEOPLE FOR THE EXPULSION OF THE SHAH. CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS SUCCESS WERE DUE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY.
3. KHOMEINI HIMSELF SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A SOMEWHAT STRONGER LINE, SPEAKING IN A TELEVISION BROADCAST LAST NIGHT. I HAVE NOT YET OBTAINED A TEXT OF HIS REMARKS BUT I AM TOLD THAT IT WAS RECORDED SOME DAYS AGO. IN ANY CASE DESPITE THE BBC WORLD SERVICE REPORT OF THEM, I BELIEVE THEY ARE NOT TO BE REGARDED AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL'S AND QOTBZADEH'S LINE.
4. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HOSTAGES ? THE SIGNALS ARE CONFUSED. IN HIS SAME INTERVIEW WITH PARS, QOTBZADEH HOPED THAT THE GRAND JURY, TO STUDY THE US ACTIONS IN IRAN (THIS PHRASE IN THE PARS BULLETIN IS A MANUSCRIPT AMENDMENT TO AN ORIGINAL PHRASE WHICH READ, "TO STUDY THE CASE OF THE HOSTAGES", WHICH HAS BEEN DELETED) WOULD BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NEW YEAR, OR PERHAPS EVEN EARLIER. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE OF 16 DECEMBER STATED THAT THEY STILL REGARDED THE US AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHAH'S CRIMES, WHILE BANI SADR IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED TO A QUESTION ON 16 DECEMBER IN THE FOLLOWING AMBIGUOUS TERMS : "ANSWERING THE QUESTION ABOUT THE DEPOSED SHAH AND HIS TRIAL AND THE HOSTAGES, BANI SADR SAID THAT THE TRIAL SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND ADDED THAT IT IS NOT A MATTER OF TRYING THE SHAH PERSONALLY, BUT HIS REGIME SHOULD BE TRIED....". HE ALSO SAID THAT A CLAIM INVOLVING THE MISAPPROPRIATION OF DOLLARS 3.5 MILLION BY THE SHAH AND HIS RELATIVES HAD BEEN "SENT" AND THAT TWO MORE CLAIMS WOULD BE FORWARDED NEXT WEEK TO THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE CENTRAL BANK OR THE GOVERNMENT HAVE STARTED QUASI-LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN IRAN WITH A VIEW TO FOLLOWING THEM UP WITH LEGAL ACTION IN THE US, BUT THE PASSAGE IS VERY OBSCURE.
5. AS AGAINST THIS, HOWEVER, THE "UHUDENTS" OCCUPYING THE EMBASSY, AFTER REITERATING ON 16 DEC THEIR DEMAND THAT THE HOSTAGES SHOULD BE TRIED, AND DECLARING THAT THEY WOULD NOT LEAVE THE PREMISES OR FREE THE HOSTAGES UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS HAD BEEN MET, HAVE THIS MORNING PUT OUT A VERY STRONG STATEMENT. AFTER CRITICISING PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT OVER THE WEEKEND WELCOMING SOME SIGNS OF MODERATION, THEY "REGRETTED" THE DEPARTURE OF THE SHAH FROM THE US AND SAID THAT A DECISION OVER THE HOSTAGES WOULD BE TAKEN BY "THE IMAM AND OUR PEOPLE". THEY FOLLOWED THIS HOWEVER BY POINTING TO KHOMEINI'S EARLIER DEMANDS THAT, FAILING THE EXTRADITION OF THE SHAH, THE HOSTAGES SHOULD BE TRIED AND



HOWEVER BY POINTING TO KHOMEINI'S EARLIER DEMANDS THAT, FAILING THE EXTRADITION OF THE SHAH, THE HOSTAGES SHOULD BE TRIED AND CLAIMING THAT IN THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION THERE COULD BE NO COMPROMISE. FINALLY, THEY CRITICISED QOTBZADEH FOR NOT CORRECTLY REFLECTING THE IMAM'S THINKING, AND SAID THAT THEY HAZAONLY ONE DEMAND, THE EXTRADITION OF THE SHAH AND "THE RETURN OF ALL HIS PROPERTY, EVEN IF AMERICA KEEPS HIM OUTSIDE AMERICA" (AGAIN AN AMBIGUITY). FAILING THAT, THE STATEMENT ENDED, THE LEAST THAT COULD BE DONE WAS TO TRY "THE AMERICAN SPIES".

6. THE ISLAMIC REPUBLICAN PARTY, IN A COMMUNIQUE OF 17 DEC DENOUNCING THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT AS THE HAGUE, REFERS TO "THE DISGRACEFUL EXPULSION OF MOHAMMED REZA FROM THE US, WHICH IS REGARDED AS A BACKWARD STEP FOR IMPERIALISM", AND CONCLUDES : ".....DEMANDS THAT THE TRIAL OF THE AMERICAN SPIES, WHICH IS IN FACT THE TRIAL OF THE CRIMINAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.... BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ...".

7. MY CONCLUSION FROM ALL THIS IS THAT THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN THE MANY DIVERSE ELEMENTS THAT MAKE UP THE STRUCTURE OF AUTHORITY AND POWER HERE. THOSE IN FAVOUR OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, WHICH I THINK INCLUDES THE MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE THE LINE THAT THE DEPARTURE OF THE SHAH FROM THE US IS A DEFEAT FOR THE US AND TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE HOLDING OF AN INTERNATIONAL ENQUIRY. CERTAINLY QOTBZADEH HAS CONTINUED TO SPEAK IN THESE TERMS (CF HIS INTERVIEW ON ABC TELEVISION) AND HAS EVEN GIVEN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE ENQUIRY MIGHT BE ORGANISED. HE HAS NAMED SEAN MCBRIDE AND PETTITI, CHAIRMAN OF THE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION OF PARIS AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC JURISTS' ORGANISATION, AS POSSIBLE MEMBERS, IN ADDITION TO FIGURES FROM AFRICA AND ASIA, NONE OF WHOM HE HAS YET APPROACHED. (I AM TOLD THAT PETTITI, WHO I BELIEVE VISITED IRAN IN THE SPRING, HAS NOT REJECTED THE PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND BUT HAS SAID HE WOULD TALK TO MCBRIDE. I AM ALSO TOLD THAT THREE GERMANS HAVE BEEN APPROACHED, PASTOR ABLERTZ WHO HAS REFUSED, THE FORMER HEAD OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN GERMANY, WHO HAS SAID HE IS TOO OLD, AND ANOTHER PASTOR WHO DOES NOT WISH TO BE INVOLVED). HE HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE ENQUIRY MIGHT CONVENE AT THE BEGINSING OF JANUARY AND WOULD PROBABLY TAKE TWO WEEKS TO HEAR EVIDENCE. THE HOSTAGES COULD APPEAR BEFORE THE ENQUIRY AS WITNESSES BUT "NOT AS THE ACCUSED". MOREOVER HABIBI, SPEAKING FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, SAID LAST NIGHT THAT THE ENQUIRY BOARD WOULD BE COMPOSED OF 24 MEMBERS. AS USUAL, I SHALL TELEGRAPH AGAIN WHEN I HAVE THE TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT LAST NIGHT, ALTHOUGH IT WILL ALREADY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU FROM THE WIRE SERVICES.

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