

OPS

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 1979

Prime Minister: Hello, Margaret here. How are you?

President Carter: Just fine. The same as always. Is Giscard
with you?

PM: He is here with me, we have just finished lunch and are waiting your message a little bit anxiously because we know you have very difficult times and we are full of sympathy and just wondering exactly what we can do.

PC: Well that is why I called you. We are having a difficult time. You have been very helpful to us so far. I called to ask you and Valery to talk over between yourselves what you might do to express your condemnation publicly of the potential trials of hostages in Iran and to take the strongest possible protestation to Khomeini that you can and to consider anything else you might do to help. I think the pressure of world opinion on Khomeini has been to some degree effective but the prospective trial of our hostages is something that causes me deep concern and I just hope that you and Valery can do everything possible to try and let the world know it is an unacceptable thing.

PM: We had a preliminary word about it because Peter Carrington and Francois-Poncet are here as well. The European Nine Foreign Ministers are meeting in Brussels tomorrow and they have an agenda but they feel very strongly we should try to get a condemnation by the Nine which would be very, very much firmer and more powerful than us acting separately. And so from here tomorrow morning, Peter Carrington and M. Francois-Poncet, will be going over to Brussels to try and discuss it with the Nine European countries. Now is there anything else we can do in addition.

PC: Well, I don't know what can be done between your own Government and the officials in Iran in addition to the European Community Nine but anything that you might do in lowering the number of ^{your} people in

/the Embassy

the Embassy or letting Khomeini know directly from you what deep concern you address this, would be helpful to us. I am not in a position of telling you what to do or advising you really.

PM: You are asking for help. That we're the first to understand. We have steadily been getting down the numbers in our Embassy and we have not a lot there at the moment. We are running at about 10 per cent of our normal strength. We have run down 10 per cent (I have got Peter Carrington here) but we will certainly have a look at that. And we will have a go with the Nine tomorrow and we will consider any other action we can take. Would you now like to have a quick word with President Giscard.

PC: Yes I would. Look, before you hang up, I will have Secretary Vance give Lord Carrington a call also and may be discuss with him the possibilities before the EEC Nine meets.

PM: Yes, Peter will be going over to the Foreign Office shortly and so perhaps if Secretary Vance could do that in half an hour or so it would be very helpful I hope both to him and to you and to us because we want to do as much as we can.

PC: Good. One thing I might say, I am sure you don't have any doubt about it, there is no way that we can permit the blackmail to work and send the Shah back to Iran. That is completely out of the question.

PM: We are wholly with you on that. I quite agree. There is no way you could send the Shah back. It would be the most inhumane thing and no country that did this could ever hold up its head again.

PC: If you could say something like that publicly it would help us.

PM: It would help if we could say something like that publicly.

PC: It really would.

PM: All right. Perhaps if Cyrus has a word with Peter later in the afternoon we will just see if we can get as strong a statement out as we can.

PC: I will tell Cy to call Peter.

PM: Right. Now. Would you like a word with President Giscard?

PC: Yes, I would.

President Giscard: Hello

PCarter: Valery, good afternoon.

President Giscard: How are you?

President Carter: Just fine. I placed a call to you in Paris not knowing that you were enjoying the delightful company of the Prime Minister of Great Britain and I am glad to talk to you. I just called to ask you and Margaret - and also I have a call in for Chancellor Schmidt. I just wanted to ask all three of you collectively or individually to support us strongly and publicly in the condemnation of Khomeini in what he is doing and to let it be known to the world that no country - as Margaret just said - could possibly succumb to this kind of blackmail. And to ask you both within the European Community and individually to make the strongest possible importunities to Khomeini to release the hostages unharmed. I know you are already doing this but I wanted to let you know personally that we are doing the best we can. We are not going to release the Shah to the Iranians obviously and if you could help us in any way we would appreciate it.

President Giscard: But what do you expect tactically for the moment?

President Carter: Well I understand that they will release ten more hostages today and Khomeini has said in some equivocal terms that the other hostages could be tried - some interpretations are will be tried - I think the accurate is could be tried as spies. And the fact that this is absolutely unacceptable....