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FM WASHINGTON 281706Z APR 80

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NO 1643 OF 28 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE LUXEMBOURG, PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, ROME, UKDEL NATO,  
MOSCOW, OTTAWA, PEKING, TOKYO

INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS.

M I P T: MR VANCES RESIGNATION

FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF MR VANCES LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
OF THE LATTER'S REPLY, BOTH DATED 28 APRIL.

2. MR VANCE'S LETTER

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR YOU AND IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I SUBMIT MY RESIGNATION. IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE AND A HIGH HONOR TO SERVE YOU AND OUR NATION. I LOOK WITH PRIDE AND SATISFACTION AT THE MANY ACTIONS AND NEW DIRECTIONS WHICH HAVE MARKED OUR FOREIGN POLICY UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP. THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY, THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY, NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR MILITARY FORCES AND OUR ALLIANCES, THE NEGOTIATION OF THE SALT II AGREEMENT, THE ZIMBABWE SETTLEMENT, AND THE NEW THRUST AND DIRECTION GIVEN TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD ARE SEVERAL OF THESE MAJOR STEPS.

I KNOW HOW DEEPLY YOU HAVE PONDERED YOUR DECISION ON IRAN. I WISH I COULD SUPPORT YOU IN IT. BUT FOR THE REASONS WE HAVE DISCUSSED I CANNOT.

YOU WOULD NOT BE WELL SERVED IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS BY A SECRETARY OF STATE WHO COULD NOT OFFER YOU THE PUBLIC BACKING YOU NEED ON AN ISSUE AND DECISION OF SUCH EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE - NO MATTER HOW FIRM I REMAIN IN MY SUPPORT ON OTHER ISSUES, AS I DO, OR HOW LOYAL I AM TO YOU AS OUR LEADER. SUCH A SITUATION WOULD BE UNTENABLE AND OUR RELATIONSHIP, WHICH I VALUE SO HIGHLY, WOULD CONSTANTLY SUFFER.

I SHALL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HAVING HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE. I SHALL ALWAYS HAVE FOR YOU THE DEEPEST RESPECT AND AFFECTION, AND YOU KNOW YOU CAN COUNT ON MY SUPPORT FOR YOUR CONTINUED LEADERSHIP OF OUR NATION.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,  
CY.

3. THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY

TO SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE

I ACCEPT YOUR RESIGNATION WITH REGRET, BUT WITH DEEP APPRECIATION FOR YOUR DEDICATED AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE TO ME AND TO OUR COUNTRY.

AS MENTIONED IN YOUR LETTER, WE HAVE HAD NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP AS SECRETARY OF STATE. I SHARE YOUR PRIDE IN WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

BECAUSE YOU COULD NOT SUPPORT MY DECISION REGARDING THE RESCUE OPERATION IN IRAN, YOU HAVE MADE THE CORRECT DECISION TO RESIGN. I KNOW THIS IS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WITH YOU, AND I RESPECT THE REASONS YOU HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME.

YOU LEAVE YOUR POST WITH THE ADMIRATION AND BEST WISHES OF A GRATEFUL NATION. OUR CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP DURING CHALLENGING TIMES HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND REASSURANCE TO ME.

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUING ADVICE AND COUNSEL ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES -- OUR COUNTRY, WHICH YOU HAVE SERVED SO WELL.

YOUR FRIEND,  
JIMMY CARTER.

FCO PASS SAVING BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, UKREP BRUSSELS.

HENDERSON

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NO 1642 OF 23 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE LUXEMBOURG, PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, ROME, UKDEL NATO,  
MOSCOW, OTTAWA, PEKING, TOKYO

INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS

MY TELNO 1 TO LUXEMBOURG (NOT TO ALL): MR VANCE'S RESIGNATION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MR VANCE'S STATEMENT AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT 16.30Z TODAY, AND OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH FOLLOWED.

YOU HAVE RECEIVED COPIES OF MY LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO ME.

I HAVE THE GREATEST ADMIRATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH HE HAS GIVEN ME TO SERVE HIM AND OUR NATION. AS I LEAVE OFFICE I'M PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY ACTIONS AND NEW DIRECTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER'S LEADERSHIP. THEY'RE IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY FOR THE PRESENT BUT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION AS WELL. AS YOU KNOW I COULD NOT SUPPORT THE DIFFICULT DECISION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE RESCUE OPERATION IN IRAN. I THEREFORE SUBMITTED MY RESIGNATION TO THE PRESIDENT LAST WEEK. I HAVE TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FULLY HIS POLICIES ON OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. I HAVE ASSURED HIM THAT HE CAN COUNT ON MY SUPPORT FOR HIS CONTINUED LEADERSHIP OF OUR NATION. HE WILL ALWAYS HAVE MY DEEPEST RESPECT. AND THANK YOU ALL, WHOM I HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW WELL OVER THESE LAST 3 AND A HALF YEARS. THAT HAS ALSO BEEN A PLEASURE FOR ME.

Q. WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE RESCUE MISSION THAT YOU COULD NOT SUPPORT?

A. I DO NOT WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS. I THINK MY POSITION IS VERY CLEAR ON THAT, AND THAT'S ALL I WANT TO SAY.

Q. WILL ANYONE ELSE BE RESIGNING?

A. NO, I HOPE THAT EVERYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT WILL STAY AND SUPPORT THE ACTING SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT AND I'M GOING TO TELL THEM THAT.

Q. ARE YOU GOING BACK TO WALL STREET?

A. I HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND YET...

2. SEE M.I.F.T. FOR THE TEXTS OF MR VANCE'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

FCO PASS SAVING BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, UKREP BRUSSELS.

HENDERSON

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