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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH



10 April 1980

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*Dear Nick,*

Iranian Diplomats Expelled from the US

Following our conversation yesterday, you will wish to know that the Iranian diplomats expelled from the United States and their families passed through the UK without incident on their way back to Tehran.

Approximately 47 diplomats and their families arrived on two separate flights from Washington and New York. Some of them were received by the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires, Dr Afrouz, in the Alcock and Brown Suite. Of the diplomats, one asked permission to enter the UK as a visitor and was refused by immigration officials. A further group of 5 diplomats and 4 dependants arrived yesterday at Gatwick Airport and were transferred by helicopter to Heathrow during the afternoon. By yesterday evening all the Iranian diplomats and their families had left London.

One separate Iranian diplomat, Mr Biabani, (who the US authorities have confirmed will be granted political asylum once his request has been processed) arrived in London this morning with his family and has been granted temporary admission. The United States Embassy have informed us that his application will take only a few days to process.

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

N J Sanders Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

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