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FM WASHINGTON 172356Z APR 80  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1516 OF 17 APRIL 1980  
INFO IMMEDIATE TEHRAN SALISBURY (FOR P S), BCNN, PARIS, ROUTINE  
UKMIS NEW YORK ROME OTTAWA TOKYO MOSCOW CANBERRA WELLINGTON  
INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS AND UKDEL NATO.

MIPT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE: IRAN

1. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL POINTS ON IRAN MADE BY THE PRESIDENT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FOLLOWING HIS STATEMENT:

(A) ASKED WHETHER HE HAD SET A DEADLINE FOR A DECISION ON MILITARY ACTION BEFORE THE SUMMER AND WHETHER THE UNITED STATES' ALLIES WERE PROVING FAIRWEATHER FRIENDS, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THROUGHOUT, HE HAD HAD TWO GOALS IN MIND:

(I) TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS; AND

(II) AN EQUAL CONCERN TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THE HOSTAGES AND TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE AND FREEDOM. IN MEETING THESE GOALS, HE HAD THREE OPTIONS: ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY OF WHICH SO FAR ONLY THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OPTIONS HAD BEEN EXERCISED. WHILE HE COULD NOT PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT OTHER NATIONS WOULD DO, HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALMOST ALL THE ALLIED LEADERS ABOUT WHAT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ACTION THEY MIGHT TAKE TO CONVINCE THE IRANIAN LEADERSHIP OF THE DANGERS TO IRAN, BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL, ARISING FROM THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF THE HOSTAGES. ALLIED AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN TO CONSIDER THE NEXT STEPS AND THE EUROPEANS WOULD BE HOLDING A MEETING NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER WHAT MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN. IF THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE UNITED STATES, AND THE CONCERTED ACTION WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN BY AMERICA'S ALLIES WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL THEN THE ONLY NEXT AVAILABLE STEP WHICH HE COULD SEE WAS SOME KIND OF MILITARY ACTION WHICH WAS THE PREROGATIVE AND RIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES.

(B) ASKED HOW FAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIMING OF ANY MILITARY ACTION WOULD DEPEND ON ALLIED SUPPORT AND HOW FAR ON CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN IRAN ALONE, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THERE WERE THREE FACTORS:

/ (I) THE EFFECTIVENESS

(I) THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES;

(II) THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SANCTIONS TO BE IMPOSED BY OTHER NATIONS; AND

(III) THE RESPONSE OF IRAN AND THE EFFECT OF WORLD CONDEMNATION. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO SET A TIME SCHEDULE BUT THE KEY ALLIED LEADERS UNDERSTOOD THE TIME FRAME UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES WAS OPERATING AND THEIR DECISIONS WOULD BE COLOURED BY HIS CONTACTS WITH THEM.

(C) ASKED WHETHER THE U S WOULD FIND IT ACCEPTABLE TO WAIT UNTIL JULY BEFORE THE IRANIANS TOOK A DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE HOSTAGES, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THAT JULY WOULD REPRESENT AN EXCESSIVE TIME FOR THE US TO WAIT.

(D) ASKED ABOUT THE THREAT TO THE PEACE AND TO ALLIED ECONOMIES WHICH MILITARY ACTION MIGHT INVOLVE THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED SPECIFIC MILITARY STEPS WITH AMERICA'S ALLIES, BUT THAT THOSE ALLIES KNEW FROM PRESS REPORTS AND FROM COMMON SENSE WHAT THOSE MEASURES MIGHT BE. WHILE HE HOPED TO AVOID SUCH STEPS, THEY WERE AN OPTION WHICH HE MUST KEEP OPEN. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT STEPS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE INTERRUPTION OF OIL SUPPLIES FROM IRAN WOULD BE A DEVASTATING BLOW AS OPPOSED TO AN INCONVENIENCE, TO AMERICA'S ALLIES BECAUSE IRANIAN SHIPMENTS OF OIL HAD ALREADY DROPPED PRECIPITOUSLY BECAUSE OF EXISTING SANCTIONS AND THE FRAGMENTED NATURE OF IRAN'S OWN ECONOMY. THEY WOULD HOWEVER HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON IRAN.

(E) ALTHOUGH THERE WERE HISTORICAL TRADE LINKS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE SOVIET UNION, THE PRESIDENT DID NOT BELIEVE THAT IRAN COULD CIRCUMVENT THE EFFECTS OF ANY BLOCKADE BY MEANS OF LAND LINKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT HIS REPLY DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE HAD DECIDED THAT A BLOCKADE SHOULD BE IMPOSED.

(F) HE HAD NOT TAKEN SPECIFIC STEPS TO BAN THE EXPORT OF FOOD AND DRUGS TO IRAN BECAUSE TRADE IN THEM WAS NOW PRACTICALLY NON-EXISTENT. BUT A BAN ON SUCH EXPORTS REMAINED AN OPTION.

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INFO SAVING OTHER E C POSTS, UKDEL NATO.

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PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE: IRAN.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUBSTANCE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON  
IRAN AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 17 APRIL. THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED  
OVERLAP, BUT DIFFER IN IMPORTANT RESPECTS FROM, THOSE IN THE U S  
PAPER HANDED OVER IN ADVANCE IN LONDON (F C O - WASHINGTON TELNO  
722).

BEGINS:

FIRST, I AM PROHIBITING ALL FINANCIAL TRANSFERS BY PERSONS SUBJECT  
TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE U S TO ANY PERSON OR ENTITY IN IRAN,  
EXCEPT THOSE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE GATHERING OF NEWS AND FAMILY  
REMITTANCES TO THE HOSTAGES. AS FROM TODAY ANY SUCH TRANSACTIONS WILL  
BECOME A CRIMINAL ACT.

SECONDLY, ALL IMPORTS FROM IRAN TO THE U S WILL BE BARRED.

THIRD, I INTEND TO EXERCISE MY STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO PROTECT  
AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD BY PROHIBITING TRAVEL TO IRAN AND BY  
PROHIBITING ANY TRANSACTION BETWEEN AMERICANS AND FOREIGN PERSONS  
RELATING TO SUCH TRAVEL OR THE PRESENCE OF AMERICANS IN IRAN. AGAIN,  
THIS AUTHORITY WILL NOT NOW BE USED TO INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHT OF  
THE PRESS TO GATHER NEWS. HOWEVER, IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AND MY  
OBLIGATION, GIVEN THE SITUATION IN IRAN TO CALL ON AMERICAN JOURNAL-  
ISTS AND NEWSGATHERING ORGANISATIONS TO MINIMISE AS SEVERELY AS  
POSSIBLE THEIR PRESENCE AND THEIR ACTIVITIES IN IRAN.

/ FOURTH,

FOURTH, I AM ORDERING THAT ALL MILITARY EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN, WHICH I HAD PREVIOUSLY IMPOUNDED, BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY THE U S MILITARY FORCES OR FOR SALE TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

FINALLY, I WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO PAY REPARATIONS TO THE HOSTAGES AND TO THEIR FAMILIES OUT OF THE MORE THAN 8 BILLION DOLLARS IN FROZEN IRANIAN ASSETS IN THE UNITED STATES. THESE ASSETS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SATISFY CONTRACTS AND OTHER COMMERCIAL CLAIMS OF AMERICAN FIRMS AGAINST IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, AND TO REIMBURSE CLAIMS OF THE U S FOR THE HEAVY MILITARY AND OTHER COSTS WE HAVE INCURRED BECAUSE OF IRAN'S ILLEGAL ACTIONS.

IF A CONSTRUCTIVE IRANIAN RESPONSE IS NOT FORTHCOMING SOON THE U S SHOULD AND WILL PROCEED WITH OTHER MEASURES. WE WILL LEGALLY FORBID SHIPMENTS OF FOOD AND MEDICINE AND THE U N CHARTER, AS YOU KNOW, STIPULATES INTERRUPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS AS A LEGITIMATE SANCTION ACCORDINGLY, I AM PREPARED TO INITIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MEMBER NATIONS OF INTELSAT TO BAR IRAN'S USE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES.

THE MEASURES WHICH I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY ARE STILL NON-BELLIGERENT IN NATURE. THEY ARE A CONTINUATION OF OUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS CRISIS BY PEACEFUL MEANS. THE AUTHORITIES IN IRAN SHOULD REALISE HOWEVER THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF PEACEFUL MEASURES, LIKE THE PATIENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IS RUNNING OUT. I AM COMPELLED TO REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. OTHER ACTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE U S AND MAY BECOME NECESSARY IF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN REFUSES TO FULFILL ITS SOLOMON INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES MUST BE FREED.

ENDS.

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