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FROM LISBON 101135Z APR 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 111 OF 10 APRIL 1980

INFO IMMEDIATE TEHRAN, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, ROME, UKREP EC.

INFO SAVING BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, DUBLIN, UKDEL NATO.

*Prime Minister  
Iran - latest developments***IRAN**

1. MINISTERS OF THE NINE ATTENDING THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING MET OVER BREAKFAST THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE AIDE MEMOIRE ON IRAN WHICH THE AMERICANS HAD DELIVERED IN CAPITALS ON 8 APRIL. THE SECRETARY OF STATE GAVE AN ACCOUNT, BASED ON WASHINGTON TELNO 1430, OF THE MEETING WHICH MR VANCE HAD HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OECD COUNTRIES ON 9 APRIL IN WASHINGTON.
2. COLOMBO (ITALIAN PRESIDENCY) SAID THAT HE IMAGINED THAT ALL THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NINE WOULD HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT CERTAIN OF THE ACTIONS WHICH THEY WERE BEING ASKED BY THE AMERICANS TO TAKE. NONETHELESS THERE WAS A PRIME NEED TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED STATES. TO FAIL TO DO THIS COULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE IN THE LONGER TERM. HIS OWN RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT MINISTERS SHOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT CONDEMNING AGAIN THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF THE HOSTAGES, EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE AMERICANS, AND ANNOUNCING THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF THE NINE WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) DEMARCHÉ TO PRESIDENT BANI SADR, THAT AMBASSADORS WOULD BE CALLED HOME TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF THIS AND THAT THEREAFTER EITHER MINISTERS OR POLITICAL DIRECTORS WOULD MEET TO CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER STEPS MIGHT NEED TO BE TAKEN. COLOMBO ADDED THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF THE NINE HAD APPARENTLY ALREADY BEEN SUMMONED TO SEE QOTBZADEH ON 11 APRIL; HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT HOWEVER THAT THE NINE SHOULD TAKE A SEPARATE INITIATIVE OF THEIR OWN WITH BANI SADR.
3. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT A DECLARATION ON THESE LINES WAS REQUIRED AND THAT THE SENSE OF LONELINESS AND FRUSTRATION FELT BY THE AMERICANS OVER THIS ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. OLESEN (DENMARK) COMMENTED THAT DECLARATIONS AND (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) DEMARCHES WERE ALL VERY WELL BUT AT SOME POINT THE NINE WOULD NEED TO DISCUSS WHAT CONCRETE MEASURES THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE. THE RECALL OF AMBASSADORS MIGHT BE ONE SUCH SYMBOLIC STEP. BUT, AS FAR AS DENMARK WAS CONCERNED, ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WOULD BE DIFFICULT. LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED AND HE WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THIS WOULD BE FEASIBLE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

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WOULD POSE DIFFICULTIES, AND A SIMILAR REQUIREMENT FOR LEGISLATION FOR THE UK AS WELL. NONETHELESS, IF THE (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) DEMARCHE TO BANI SADR PRODUCED A BAD OR UNSATISFACTORY ANSWER THE NINE WOULD BE COMMITTED TO TAKING SOME FURTHER ACTION. IT WAS IMPORTANT THEREFORE TO CONSIDER IN THE MEANTIME WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN, ONE SUCH IDEA WAS A BOYCOTT OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE WHERE IRAN WAS REPRESENTED. GENSCHER (FRG) SAID THAT FRG WAS READY TO TAKE MEASURES IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, AS PART OF A JOINT ACTION WITH ITS PARTNERS. FRANCOIS-PONCET (FRANCE) SAID THAT THE NINE HAD VERY FEW CARDS TO PLAY. THE RECALL OF AMBASSADORS WAS ONE, BUT ONCE THEY HAD BEEN RECALLED, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO SEND THEM BACK AGAIN UNTIL THE HOSTAGES HAD BEEN RELEASED. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO ASSOCIATE JAPAN WITH ANY (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) DEMARCHE WHICH THE AMBASSADORS OF THE NINE MADE IN TEHRAN AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESIDENCY SHOULD APPROACH THE JAPANESE TO THIS EFFECT.

4. IT WAS EVENTUALLY DECIDED THAT THE PRESIDENCY SHOULD ISSUE THE STATEMENT IN MY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WHICH WAS BASED ON A DRAFT CIRCULATED BY FRANCOIS-PONCET. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE PRESIDENCY SHOULD MENTION THE FACT THAT THE JAPANESE WOULD BE ASKED TO MAKE A PARALLEL (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) DEMARCHE IN TEHRAN, IN THE LIGHT OF BANI SADR'S RESPONSE, THE PRESIDENCY WOULD CONVENE A FURTHER MEETING, EITHER AT MINISTERIAL OR POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL TO TAKE PLACE IN GOOD TIME BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 27/29 APRIL WHERE, IT WAS ASSUMED, SOME FURTHER STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT WOULD IN ANY CASE NEED TO BE MADE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVINGS TO BRUSSELS LUXEMBOURG COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE DUBLIN AND UKDEL NATO.

MORAN

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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