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UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 082355Z OCT 80

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 4236 OF 8 OCTOBER

INFO MOSCOW, BAGHDAD, JEDDA, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS NEW YORK
INFO SAVING PARIS, BONN, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS, AMMAN.

IRAN/IRAQ: US/SOVIET CONTACTS.

1. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN WISCONSIN ON 6 OCTOBER (WHICH HAS RECEIVED SCANT NOTICE IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA), PRESIDENT CARTER REVEALED THAT HE HAD EXCHANGED LETTERS WITH BREZHNEV ABOUT THE WAR. BREZHNEV'S LETTER HAD BEEN HANDED OVER DURING THE GROMYKO/MUSKIE CONTACTS IN NEW YORK.

2. ASKED IF THE RUSSIANS WERE AS ANXIOUS AS THE US TO KEEP THE CONFLICT CONFINED TO THE PRESENT PARTICIPANTS, CARTER SAID: QUOTE I HOPE SO. MY BELIEF IS THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT WANT WAR TO BREAK OUT IN A GENERAL WAY THROUGHOUT THE PERSIAN GULF. THE BIGGEST THREAT TO OUR SECURITY WOULD BE IF THE SOVIETS SHOULD BE TEMPTED TO MOVE INTO IRAN OR INTO AN AREA WHERE THEY CAN CONTROL THE PERSIAN GULF OR ACCESS TO IT. THIS WOULD BE A DIRECT THREAT NOT ONLY TO OUR OWN SECURITY BUT THE SECURITY OF OTHER WESTERN NATIONS WHO DEPEND ON OIL SUPPLIES FROM THAT REGION FOR THEIR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING UNQUOTE.

F C O PASS SAVING PARIS, BONN, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS AND AMMAN.

HENDERSON

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED
ADDITIONAL DISTN.
IRAQ/IRAN

IRAQ/IRAN STANDARD

MED	MAED
NENAD	TRED
NAD	ERD
UND	ECON D
EESD	CONS D
EGD	CONS EM UNIT
WED	CABINET OFFICE
ES4SD	