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DD TEHRAN 140600Z
OO BAGHDAD
OO AMMAN
OO ABU DHABI
OO BAHRAIN
OO DOHA
OO DUBAI
OO KUWAIT
OO JEDDA
GRS 303

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DESK BY 140600Z

FROM FCO 131730Z JULY 84

TO IMMEDIATE BIS TEHRAN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 230 OF 13 JULY

INFO IMMEDIATE BAGHDAD, AMMAN, GULF POSTS, WASHINGTON, PRIORITY

UKMIS NEW YORK, PARIS, HONG KONG (FOR PS/MR LUCE)

YOUR TELNO 388: 'BRITISH RENOWN'

1. BP SAY DAMAGE IS SLIGHT AND READILY REPAIRABLE. THE DUTCH SALVAGE COMPANY WHICH HAD CHARTERED THE 'BRITISH RENOWN' STILL WANT TO USE HER FOR LIGHTENING THE 'TIBURON 1'. LATTER IS NOW BEING TOWED TO THE VICINITY OF SIR ABU NU' AIR (25 12N, 54 13E), WHERE 'BRITISH RENOWN' WOULD ARRIVE ON THE EVENING OF 15 JULY. BP ALSO WISH TO CONTINUE WITH THE TASK, AND THE TANKER'S NEW CREW ARE WILLING.
2. HOWEVER, BP WOULD LIKE AS MUCH ASSURANCE AS POSSIBLE THAT THE ATTACK WILL NOT BE REPEATED. THEY ARE CONTACTING NIOC TO THIS EFFECT, BUT HAVE ASKED US TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS IN SUPPORT.
3. PLEASE THEREFORE SPEAK URGENTLY TO THE MFA, SAYING THAT WHILE WE STILL AWAIT A REPLY TO OUR PROTEST, WE SHOULD LIKE THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TO BE AWARE THAT THE 'BRITISH RENOWN' IS INTENDING TO CONTINUE HER INTERRUPTED MISSION. WE HAVE ALREADY ASKED FOR A GENERAL ASSURANCE THAT THE ATTACK ON

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10 JULY WILL NOT BE REPEATED, BUT IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE IF THE 'BRITISH RENOWN' WERE ATTACKED AGAIN. WE ARE SPEAKING SIMILARLY TO THE IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE.

4. SHOULD THE IRANIANS REVERT TO THE QUESTION OF PROOF OF IRANIAN RESPONSIBILITY (PARA 3 OF YOUR TUR) YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE HAVE ABUNDANT EVIDENCE OF THIS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE ATTACK CAME IMMEDIATELY AFTER A RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT BY AN IRANIAN AIR FORCE MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT, EXACTLY LIKE ALL THE PREVIOUS IRANIAN ATTACKS. THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN COINCIDENTAL.

(B) ALL THE IRAQI AIR ATTACKS HAVE BEEN BY EXOCET MISSILE. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ATTACK ON THE 'BRITISH RENOWN' WAS BY MAVERICK MISSILE WHICH IS IN SERVICE WITH THE IRANIAN AIR FORCE.

HOWE

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