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INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK

CHILEAN INAUGURATION : SIR G HOWE'S MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE

SEE MY TELNOS 72 AND 73

SUMMARY

1. VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE CONFIRMS THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY IN TRAIN WITH SYRIA OR IRAN ON RELEASE OF HOSTAGES.

DETAIL

2. DURING HIS BILATERAL WITH VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE SIR G HOWE ASKED HIM ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE AMERICANS WERE NEGOTIATING ON HOSTAGES. (CY VANCE'S DISCUSSIONS IN SYRIA AND THE RAFSANJANI PHONE CALL TO BUSH). QUAYLE SAID THAT THERE WERE NO NEGOTIATIONS ON HOSTAGES. THE AMERICANS WERE KEEN TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE SYRIANS. THEY OF COURSE WANTED THE RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES BUT HAD MADE CLEAR TO ASSAD AND RAFSANJANI, WHO THEY THOUGHT WERE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP, THAT THE FATE OF THE HOSTAGES WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE. THEY SHOULD BE RELEASED.

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