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copy to Mr. [unclear]

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Home Minister
Contact?



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

file 201-

London SW1A 2AH

20 May 1981

Dear Michael,

Yes not

Iran/UK Relations

You will recall that Ministers decided at OD on 9 April that we should go ahead with plans for the re-establishment of the British Embassy in Tehran. Subsequently the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary decided that we should nevertheless await the outcome of the trial of two Iranians accused of causing a bomb explosion in a London hotel last year. This has now been completed without provoking an unhelpful reaction in Iran. The Head of the British Interests Section in Tehran, in agreement with the Swedish Ambassador, has therefore recommended that we should take steps to reopen our Embassy on 2 June.

Lord Carrington has accepted this recommendation. We shall be notifying the authorities in Tehran of our decision within the next few days, but it is unlikely that our decision will become public knowledge until 24 May. When it does there may be some criticism on the grounds that Mr Pyke's case is still no nearer resolution (though we have regular consular access and progress has been made in clarifying the charges against him). We shall continue to argue that more normal relations with Iran will improve our ability to help Mr Pyke as well as serving other national interests.

Yours own.

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

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cc Bernard
Ingham

File
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Iran

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

21 May 1981

Dear Francis,

IRAN/UK RELATIONS

I have shown the Prime Minister your letter of 20 May 1981 to Michael Alexander and she has taken note that Lord Carrington has decided that we should take steps to reopen our Embassy in Tehran on 2 June.

Yours etc,

Heri Whinn.

Francis Richards Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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