

SUBJECT

copied to
subject +
Master

Iran

RESTRICTED

GRS 70A

RESTRICTED
FROM FCO 050943Z AUG 81
TO IMMEDIATE TEHRAN
TELEGRAM NUMBER 195 OF 5 AUGUST 1981
INFO STOCKHOLM AND BAGHDAD.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL NO. T113/81

YOUR TELNO 317: MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT RAJAI.

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO PRESIDENT RAJAI AFTER FOREWARNING THE SWEDISH EMBASSY:

BEGINS: I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RECENT ELECTION AS
PRESIDENT OF IRAN. I LOOK FORWARD TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH YOUR
COUNTRY ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

ENDS.

2. WE ARE NOT SEEKING PUBLICITY FOR THIS, BUT NATURALLY HAVE NO
OBJECTION IF THE IRANIANS WISH TO PUBLICISE IT.

CARRINGTON

MINIMAL
MED
PCD
NENAD
NEWS D
PS|LPS
PS|MR HUAD
PS|PVS
MR. J.C. MOBERLY
SIR. J. GRAMHAM

RESTRICTED



Prime Minister
Agree to send the attached message of
congratulations to President Rajai?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

wh
4/8

As amended
mb

4 August 1981

Dear Michael.

IRAN

~~BF for Tel
to T~~

Mohammad Ali Rajai, formerly Prime Minister, was elected President of Iran on 24 July with 95% of the votes cast. He was officially inaugurated as Bani Sadr's successor on 2 August. The elections were stage-managed: Rajai was the official candidate of the Islamic Republican Party; 69 candidates were declared unsuitable; and the three other candidates withdrew on the eve of the election. Rajai is an extreme Muslim fundamentalist whose election consolidates the ruling Islamic Republican Party's hold on Iranian politics.

Nicholas Barrington, the newly arrived Head of the British Interests Section in Tehran, has suggested that a message of congratulations should be sent as a sign to the Iranian Government of our desire to maintain contacts. As you are aware, throughout the recent difficult period in Anglo-Iranian relations, we have maintained a flow of messages to this end. Lord Carrington recently sent a message to the new Iranian Foreign Minister. France, the FRG, Italy and Belgium have already sent messages. In full awareness of the difficulties of the proposal, the Lord Privy Seal nonetheless thinks that, for the sake of our future relations, and of Mr Pyke, who remains in custody, there would be a case for the Prime Minister sending a short message of congratulations to President Rajai.

/I therefore

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

Sent for despatch
to FCO on 5/8
CS



I therefore enclose a draft telegram to Tehran instructing Mr Barrington to hand over a message, after consulting the Swedes who protect our interests in Iran. If the Prime Minister agrees, I should be grateful if you would arrange for it to be despatched.

Yours ever
Stephen Gomersall

S J Gomersall
Private Secretary to the
Lord Privy Seal

File No.
 Department MED
 Drafted by
 (Block Capitals)
 Tel. Extn.

OUTWARD
 TELEGRAM

Security Classification RESTRICTED
Precedence IMMEDIATE
DESKBYZ

FOR
 COMMS. DEPT.
 USE

Despatched (Date)
 (Time)Z

POSTBYZ

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)
 (Security Class.) RESTRICTED (Caveat)
 (Codeword) (Privacy marking)
 (Deskby) Z

TO IMMEDIATE TEHRAN Tel. No. of
 (precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info) ...STOCKHOLM, ...BAGHDAD.....

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

- Minimal
- MED
- PCD
- PS/LPS
- PS/Mr Hurd
- Mr J C Moberly
- Sir J Graham
- NENAD
- News Dept

[TEXT]

YOUR TELNO 317 : MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT RAJAI

1. Please deliver the following message from the Prime Minister to President Rajai after forewarning the Swedish Embassy:

Begins : I congratulate you on your recent election as President of Iran. I look forward to good relations with your country on the basis of mutual understanding ~~and respect~~. Ends.

2. We are not seeking publicity for this, but naturally have no objection if the Iranians wish to publicise it.

Copies to:-