

Prime Minister

10

PS
 PS/SIR I GILMOUR
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/PUS
 SIR J GRAHAM
~~MR J O MOHRAN~~
~~LORD BRIDGES~~
 LORD W G LENNOX
 MR EVANS
~~MISS BROWN~~
 HD/LED
 HD/ERD
 HD/WENAD
 HD/UND (2)
 HD/DEF DEPT
 HD/WAD
 HD/ES & SD (2)
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 HD/NEWS DEPT
 HD/ECG (E)
 HD/CONS DEPT
 RESIDENT CLERK

PS NO 10 DOWNING ST
 SIR R ARMSTRONG)
 ASSESSMENTS STAFF) CABINET
 MR R WADE GERY) OFFICE
 MR LE CREMIANT)
 MR W N WENBAN SMITH)
 DIO)

MR R WILLIAMS CRE5 DOT
 MR W HITCHCOCK DEPT OF TRADE
 MR C BENJAMIN DOI
 MR D LE B JONES) DEPT OF
 MR C LUCAS) ENERGY

1 mt

CONFIDENTIAL

FM BRIT INT SECTION TEHRAN 120800Z AUG. 81.

TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NO 337 OF 12 AUGUST 81.
 INFO ROUTINE STOCKHOLM AND THE HAGUE.

ADVANCE COPY
 IMMEDIATE

MIPT : (NOT TO ALL) PYKE.

1. AFTER DISCUSSING THE STATUS OF THE EMBASSY WITH SHAIKHOESLAM, AMBASSADOR BUNDY ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CHANCE OF PROGRESS ON THE PYKE CASE. SHAIKHOESLAM SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FOR TEHRAN, LAJVARDI, AND LEARNED THAT PYKE HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION HE SAID THIS CONTACT WAS MADE IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS.

2. BUNDY EVIDENTLY GOT QUITE UPSET ABOUT THIS, STRESSING THAT ACCORDING TO ALL THE INFORMATION HE HAD HAD THE ESPIONAGE CHARGE HAD BEEN DROPPED LONG AGO. HE REFERRED TO SUCH A STATEMENT BY AFSHARPUR IN THE TEHRAN REVOLUTIONARY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE REPORTED IN A NOTE SENT TO THE MINISTRY ON 16 APRIL.

(HE DID NOT REFER TO A SIMILAR UNDER-TAKING HE HAD HAD PERSONALLY FROM QOTBZADEH, IN ORDER NOT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE LATTER).

3. SHAIKHOESLAM THEN MADE THE LINK WITH THE IRANIAN, NOURIPUR, NOW IN PRISON IN LONDON. HE HAD BEEN HELD A LONG TIME BEFORE TRIAL, BADLY TREATED AND THOUGH INNOCENT HAD BEEN CONVICTED. IF THIS HAPPENED IN BRITAIN IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT IN IRAN, IN A STATE OF REVOLUTION, THERE SHOULD BE DELAYS.

4. WHEN BUNDY MENTIONED THAT WE COULD NOT EVEN VISIT MR PYKE, SHAIKHOESLAM SAID THAT THE IRANIANS WERE PREPARED TO ISSUE VISAS FOR HIS FAMILY, EG FOR HIS PARENTS TO COME OUT HERE. ASKED IF THIS APPLIED TO HIS WIFE, HE SAID "YES, OF COURSE".

5. BUNDY IS DEPRESSED ABOUT THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT, AS HE SEES IT, IN THE CASE AGAINST PYKE: LIKE MOST OF US HE THINKS OF LAJVARDI AS LITTLE MORE THAN A CRIMINAL BUTCHER. (IT WAS THE LATTER'S BROTHER, INCIDENTALLY, WHO CAUSED MOST OF THE PROBLEMS FOR THE FRENCH AT THE AIRPORT RECENTLY). WHEN HE SEES THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT THIS MORNING, BUNDY WILL EXPRESS HIS HOPE THAT SPYING CHARGES, WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN DROPPED, SHOULD NOT BE REVIVED AGAINST PYKE.

6. SEE M.I.F.T.

BARRINGTON.

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