

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 180  
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FM BRITISH INTERESTS SECTION TEHRAN 021045Z  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NO 391 OF 2 SEPTEMBER 81  
INFO ROUTINE BAGHDAD, WASHINGTON AND STOCKHOLM.

MY TELEGRAM NO 390 : IRAN INTERNAL.

1. AYATOLLAH MAHDAVI-KANI, THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN THE CABINETS OF BOTH RAJAI AND BAHONAR, HAS BEEN NOMINATED PRIME MINISTDR BY THE PROVISIONAL PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AND THE MAJLES GAVE THEIR APPROVAL TODAY (2 SEPTEMBER). THIS MAKES TWO CLERICAL PRIME MINISTERS IN A ROW. HE IS IN SOME WAYS A LOGICAL CHOICE BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE CABINET AND, SINCE THEIR INCEPTION, WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES IN TEHRAN. HE HAS CLOSE LINKS WITH KHOMEINI AND THE IRP MULLAHS (THOUGH HE IS NOT A LEADING MEMBER OF THE PARTY AS SUCH). HE IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A LIVELY INTELLIGENCE AND NOT TO BE AN EXTREMIST. ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, HE HAS HAD HIS CRITICS IN THE MAJLES FOR FAILING TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE SECURITY APPARATUS. HE GENERALLY SHUNNED TELEVISION AND RADIO INTERVIEWS WHILE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND SHOWED NO SKILL AT PUBLIC RELATIONS. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMICS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS PROBABLY NIL.

2. SEE MIFT.

BARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]  
[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

STANDARD	
MED	EESD
NENAD	ECD
NAD	UND
WED	TRED
SED	MAED
RID	CABINET OFFICE
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