



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
W.C.

54632

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

September 1, 1981

TO : The Secretary
FROM : C - Robert C. McFarlane
S/P - Paul D. Wolfowitz
SUBJECT : Attached Memo on Iran

The attached memo on "Dealing with Growing Anarchy in Iran" was sent to you on July 3. It apparently never reached you and your office does not know where it is. In view of the weekend's events in Iran, however, it is even more timely than before.

As you will see, the memo mainly describes a long list of issues that need to be addressed (although there are some immediate interim actions suggested, e.g., the initiation of discussions with other concerned countries on the situation in Iran). This format reflects partly our need for better information on many of these issues and partly our concern not to commit you to policy recommendations in this memo which has not been staffed with any other bureaus.

What we do recommend is that you give Bud a charter to develop policy on these issues, both within the Department and interagency, on an urgent basis. It would also be useful to get your reaction to the issues we propose to address. Are there some options we have failed to include? Alternatively, are there some which are too sensitive or seem unlikely to produce results? Attached at TAB 2 is a tasker for you to sign that assigns Bud responsibility for an urgent study of these questions.

Instead of creating an institutional mechanism right now, we could prepare for your consideration a set of action recommendations. However, unless the bureaucracy has a clear sense that you are interested in getting answers to these issues, there will be a great deal of foot dragging and reluctance to address them.

Recommendation

That you sign the tasker attached at TAB 2.

Attachments:-

1. Copy of July 3 memo
2. Tasker for signature

MDB-113#54632
RW- : - 5/27/11

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR: C - Robert C. McFarlane
NEA - Nicholas A. Veliotos
EUR - Lawrence S. Eagleburger
PM - Richard R. Burt
S/P - Paul D. Wolfowitz
INR - Ronald I. Spiers

From : Alexander M. Haig

Subject : Policy for Iran

In light of the growing chaos in Iran and the potential effect on US interests that could arise from developments there, we must as a matter of urgency explore what options are available to us to influence the course of events there in a favorable direction or to deal with a serious crisis that might be thrust upon us with little warning.

Accordingly, I am asking Bud McFarlane to convene a small group within the Department consisting of representatives from NEA, EUR, INR, PM and S/P to develop policy recommendations on the following issues (and on any others that may seem appropriate) and I am asking Bud to convene a restricted interagency group to review these same issues on an urgent and continuing basis:

- Do we have any possible ways of influencing the evolution of the political struggle within Iran?
- How can we influence Soviet conduct in Iran?
- What should be our strategy in the event of civil war in Iran?
- Do we have the intelligence necessary to form adequate policy in the first three areas?

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