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Iran

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 01 LONDON 9709 DTG: 081730Z OCT 81 PSN: 020715
EOB990 AN000953 TOR: 281/2118Z CSN: HCE123

DIMINISH IRAQI SUSPICIONS ABOUT AMERICAN ARMS SHIPMENTS TO IRAN. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEND US TALKING POINTS CONTAINING APPROPRIATE REASSURANCES WHICH HURD CAN CONVEY TO HAMMADI, THEREBY HELPING TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF IMPROVING BILATERAL U. S.-IRAQI TIES.
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STU6956
DE RUEHLD #9709 2811730
P 081730Z OCT 81
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1941

INFO USINT BAGHDAD 0747

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 19709

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E. O. 12065: RDS-1 10/8/11 (STREATOR, EDWARD J.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, IR, UK, US
SUBJECT: BRITISH REQUEST FOR USG ASSURANCES REGARDING
AMERICAN ARMS SUPPLIES TO IRAN

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI TOLD FCO MINISTER OF STATE HURD THAT BAGHDAD STILL SUSPECTS U. S., ISRAEL, AND IRAN ARE CONNIVING TO FACILITATE LARGE-SCALE SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN WEAPONS TO IRAN. HURD ARGUED THAT THIS WAS NOT TRUE, AND PROMISED TO TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH WASHINGTON AND GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH HAMMADI. WE REQUEST TALKING POINTS THAT CAN BE PASSED TO HURD FOR RECYCLING TO HAMMADI. END SUMMARY.

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3. DURING A MEETING WITH DCM OCTOBER 8, FCO MINISTER OF STATE DOUGLAS HURD PROVIDED READOUT ON HIS MEETING IN LONDON EARLIER IN THE WEEK WITH THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER. ACCORDING TO HURD, THE KEY POINT TO EMERGE FROM THE SESSION WAS HAMMADI'S RESIDUAL SUSPICION THAT THE U. S. AND ISRAEL WERE CONNIVING WITH IRAN TO SHIP LARGE AMOUNTS OF AMERICAN WEAPONS TO TEHRAN. HAMMADI TOLD HURD THAT SECRETARY HAIG HAD PROVIDED HIM WITH REASSURANCES THAT THIS WAS UNTRUE. NONETHELESS, HAMMADI MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE STILL DID NOT UNDERSTAND U. S. POLICY IN THIS REGARD.

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4. HURD REJOINED THAT IT WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE FOR THE U. S. TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A SCHEME, GIVEN THE STRONG PUBLIC ATTITUDES ABOUT KHOMEINI IN AMERICA. HE REITERATED THAT THE U. S. HAS TAKEN NO DECISION TO SUPPORT THE IRANIAN REGIME. HURD CONTINUED THAT HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE USG AND GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH HAMMADI WITH THE RESULTS.

5. REGARDING FAHD'S EIGHT-POINT PEACE PROPOSAL, HAMMADI CLAIMED THAT THE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE COULD NOT HAVE PUT TOGETHER THIS PLAN ON HIS OWN. HAMMADI SAID HE SUSPECTED THE U. S. HAD PUT FAHD UP TO IT.

6. HAMMADI ALSO MENTIONED THAT IRAQ'S RELATIONS WITH THE U. S. HAD GENERALLY IMPROVED, AND CITED HIGHER-LEVEL ACCESS NOW ENJOYED BY USINT CHARGE EAGLETON AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE BETTER SITUATION.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: HURD IS WILLING TO WORK WITH US TO

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REF MADD8-113 #55097

RW *DATE 2-24-10*

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PAGE 01 SECSTATE WASHDC 1311 DTG: 100105Z OCT 81 PSN: 022963
EOB872 AN001469 TOR: 283/0430Z CSN: HCE701

ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOT SUBJECT TO U.S. CONTROLS
MAY BE GETTING TO IRAN FROM BLACK MARKETS IN EUROPE AND
ASIA. CLARK
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INFO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 7753

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271311

EXDIS
E.O. 12865: RDS-1,3 10/9/01 (TWINAM, J.)

TAGS: PEPR, IR, UK, IZ, US

SUBJECT: BRITISH REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES RE AMERICAN ARMS
SUPPLIES TO IRAN

REF: LONDON 19709

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES FCO MINISTER OF STATE HURD'S
SUPPORT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH FM HAMMADI IN COUNTERING
IRAQI ACCUSATIONS OF U.S. COMPLICITY IN ALLEGED TRANSFERS
OF U.S. ARMS TO IRAN THROUGH ISRAEL. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO
ALLAY IRAQI SUSPICIONS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR REPORTED ISRAELI-
IRANIAN ARMS DEALINGS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, MOST RECENTLY
IN THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH HAMMADI AT THE U.N.

3. IN RESPONDING TO HAMMADI, HURD MAY WISH TO MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS, WHICH ARE BASED ON OUR DIRECT EXCHANGES
WITH THE IRAQIS:

-- U.S. POLICY ON ARMS SALES AND TRANSFERS TO IRAQ AND
IRAN IS GUIDED BY OUR STRICT "HANDS OFF" POLICY TOWARD THE

WAR. THE U.S. HAS, THEREFORE, NOT APPROVED THE SALE OR
TRANSFER OF U.S. DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES TO EITHER
COUNTRY DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THIRD PARTIES. THIS PROVISION
ALSO APPLIES TO MILITARY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURED ABROAD
UNDER U.S. LICENSE.

-- WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED REPEATEDLY BY ISRAELI LEADERS AT
THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT ARMS SUBJECT TO U.S. CONTROLS
WOULD NOT BE PROVIDED IRAN. WE HAVE NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE
TO BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL HAS VIOLATED ITS ASSURANCES.

-- ANY EVIDENCE WHICH IRAQ CAN PROVIDE TO PROVE ITS
ALLEGATIONS WILL BE CHECKED OUT THOROUGHLY. SINCE WHAT
IS INVOLVED IS BOTH U.S. POLICY AND LAW, WE WILL TAKE
APPROPRIATE ACTION NG WITH VIOLATIONS. THE IRAQI
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SO INFORMED.

-- WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT U.S.-

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BAGHDAD 3179

E.O. 12065: RDS 12/6/01 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM L.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI ALLEGATIONS RE U.S. ARMS TO IRAN VIA ISRAEL

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT).
2. DURING A MEETING WITH HEAD OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE MFA, SAHHAF, DECEMBER 6, HE ONCE AGAIN REFERRED TO IRAQI SUSPICIONS THAT U.S. ARMS ARE REACHING IRAN VIA ISRAEL. WHEN I AGAIN CHALLENGED HIM TO PRODUCE INFORMATION ON WHICH WE COULD BASE ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIONS HE SAID THE IRAQIS WERE CERTAIN THAT IRAN HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED 175 MM ARTILLERY SHELLS FROM ISRAEL. HE ASSUMED THEY WERE OF U.S. MANUFACTURE, AND THEN QUERIED ME RE OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES. I DID NOT HAVE THE ANSWER NOR DID HE PROVIDE DETAILS SUCH AS MARKINGS, IF ANY, (HE SAID THEY HAD SAMPLES OF THE AMMUNITION).
3. I ASKED WHY IRAQ WAS IGNORING EVIDENCE THAT SOVIET ARMS ARE REACHING IRAN. SAHHAF REPLIED THAT THE IRAQIS WERE "PUTTING HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE SOVIETS" IN THIS REGARD, BUT WERE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN ARMS WHICH WERE THE BASIS OF IRAN'S MILITARY STRENGTH.
4. COMMENT: SINCE 175 MM SHELLS AND THE DAMAGE THEY OCCASIONALLY CAUSE IN BASRA ARE OF INTEREST TO THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY AS WELL AS IRAQIS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANYTHING AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON ON THE SUBJECT.
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BY KML NARA DATE 10/5/10

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SAID HE ARGUED THE CASE BOTH FOR THE U.K. AND THE U.S. BUT DID NOT APPEAR TO MAKE MUCH HEADWAY WITH HIS HOSTS WHO SEEMED CONVINCED OF THE LOGIC OF THEIR ASSESSMENT AND THE ACCURACY OF THEIR INFORMATION. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER, CITE SPECIFIC SHIPMENTS FROM ISRAEL TO IRAN.

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5. ELSEWHERE IN THE CONVERSATION SADDAM REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO REDUCE HIS DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT FOR THE TIME BEING HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID HE WAS NOW UNABLE OPENLY TO CRITICIZE THE USSR ON PERIPHERAL MATTERS SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN.

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6. RE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE KHAFAJIYAH BATTLE FRONT FROM WHICH HE HAS JUST RETURNED, SADDAM CLAIMED THE IRAQIS HAD INFLICTED TEN TO ONE CASUALTIES ON THE IRANIS. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, CLAIM THEY HAD ACHIEVED A VICTORY OR RE-TAKEN THE TERRITORY INTO WHICH IRANIAN FORCES ADVANCED ON NOVEMBER 29. INSTEAD HE MADE A VIRTUE OF HIS DECISION NOT TO TRADE IRAQI BLOOD FOR IRANIAN TERRITORY. GEORGE BROWN'S READING WAS THAT IRAQ'S LEADERSHIP IS VERY DEPRESSED ABOUT THE WAR AND THEIR INABILITY TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES FROM IT. AT ONE POINT HE REFERRED TO SADDAM'S BOAST DURING AN EARLIER VISIT THAT IRAQ WAS PREPARED FOR A TWO-YEAR WAR (WHICH THEN SEEMED UNLIKELY). THIS TIME SADDAM REPLIED, "YES, AND THE TWO YEARS ARE ALMOST UP."
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2656
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 467

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN 3556
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SECRET SECTION 1 OF 2 BAGHDAD 3219

EXDIS
SECRETARY'S PARTY: VELIOTES
E.O. 12065: RDS-4 12/9/01 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM L.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IZ, UK
SUBJ: LORD GEORGE BROWN ON IRAQI COMMENTS RE THE U.S.

EXDIS

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. EX-BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY LORD GEORGE BROWN WAS IN BAGHDAD DECEMBER 4-8 FOR A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN. WHEN HE WAS LAST HERE IN MAY HE URGED SADDAM TO UPGRADE US-IRAQI RELATIONS AND WAS TOLD THAT HE WOULD HENCEFORTH BE TREATED AS OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION. THAT VISIT WAS NOT REPORTED IN THE IRAQI MEDIA. HOWEVER, THIS TIME HIS MEETINGS WITH SADDAM, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TAHA YASSIM RAMADHAN, MINISTER OF TRADE HASSAN ALI AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TARIQ AZIZ WERE CARRIED ON TV AND IN THE PRESS. FURTHERMORE HE WAS PUT UP FIRST AT A LARGE GUEST HOUSE AND THEN AT A SMALLER VILLA RUN BY THE MUKHABARAT (SECURITY POLICE) WHICH SURPRISED AND ANNOYED HIM. HE AND AMBASSADOR EGERTON CAME TO THE RESIDENCE FOR DINNER DECEMBER 6 AND I SAW HIM AT THE BRITISH RESIDENCE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 8 SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

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3. GEORGE BROWN SAID MUCH OF HIS TWO HOUR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT (WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS HALF BROTHER, SECURITY POLICE-HEAD BARZAN) WAS DEVOTED TO THE U.S. OTHER IRAQI OFFICIALS FOLLOWED UP ON THE SAME THEME. HE ASKED SADDAM WHETHER HE COULD "SHARE THESE PARTS OF THE CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL HAIG AND SECRETARY WEINBURGER." AFTER AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN SADDAM AND BARZAN IN ARABIC, SADDAM SAID HE COULD DO SO BUT SHOULD ATTRIBUTE REMARKS TO IRAQI OFFICIALS RATHER THAN HIM DIRECTLY.

4. SADDAM'S MESSAGE CENTERED ON THE COMPLAINT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COLLABORATING WITH ISRAEL IN SENDING U.S. MILITARY SUPPLIES TO IRAN. HE ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT IRANIAN ACCESS TO WESTERN ARMS THROUGH THE U.K. (THE STRONGEST DENUNCIATION WAS DIRECTED AT NORTH KOREA.) HIS ANALYSIS WAS THAT THE U.S. WANTS THE WAR TO CONTINUE SO THAT IRAQ WILL BE SO SEVERELY WEAKENED IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO "DEFEND ARAB CAUSES" (I.E., WILL BE FORCED TO SUBSCRIBE TO U.S.-MIDDLE EAST PEACE PLANS). GEORGE BROWN

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REF ID: A66701 M2008-113#55001

BY RW DATE 2-24-10

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BAGHDAD 3219

EXDIS
SECRETARY'S PARTY: VELIOTES

7. AFTER THE ABOVE BRIEFING, WE EXCHANGED VIEWS RE THE PURPOSE OF SADDAM'S MESSAGE RE U. S. ARMS REACHING IRAN. OUR CONCLUSION WAS THAT THEY ARE ALSO SEEKING A SCRAPEGOAT FOR THEIR LACK OF SUCCESS ON THE BATTLE FIELD. THEY ARE NO DOUBT ALSO IRRITATED WITH THE SOVIETS WHO THEY BELIEVE BENEFIT FROM AN EXTENDED WAR AND A WEAKENING OF IRAQ AND IRAN. HOWEVER, WITH GEORGE BROWN'S VISIT THEY HAD AN "INFORMAL CHANNEL" FOR APPLYING PRESSURE TO CUT OFF A WESTERN RESUPPLY OF IRAN THROUGH THE BLACK MARKET AND ISRAEL.

8 COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: WE HAD ALMOST CONCLUDED THE IRAQIS HAD DROPPED THEIR CHARGES RE THE US-ISRAELI SUPPLY ROUTE TO IRAN WHEN ON DECEMBER 6, SAHHAF AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REITERATED IRAQI SUSPICIONS AND CITED 175 MM AMMUNITION. NOW WE HAVE THIS HEAVIER BLAST FROM THE TOP LEADERSHIP. GIVEN THE EFFORTS WE HAVE MADE TO REASSURE THE IRAQIS ON THIS POINT, WE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN IGNORING THIS LATEST COMPLAINT. HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS LITTLE TO LOSE AND PERHAPS SOMETHING TO GAIN BY UPDATING OUR POSITION, THIS TIME AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL. WITH A VERBAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY RESTATING OUR ASSURANCES RE ARMS AND OUR DESIRE TO SEE AN END TO THE WAR I SHOULD BE ABLE TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH EITHER FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI OR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TARIQ AZIZ. IN THIS WAY WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RELIEVE THEIR SUSPICIONS AND MAINTAIN THE HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE WHICH HAS LANGUISHED RECENTLY FROM LACK OF SUBJECT MATTER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0506

EXDIS
E. O. 12065: RDS1 2/23/02 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM L.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, IZ, IR
SUBJ: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. FEBRUARY 22 I WAS RECEIVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI WHO WAS WEARING THE OLIVE DRAB UNIFORM THAT HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY TOP GOVERNMENT AND BA'ATH PARTY LEADERS SINCE DECEMBER. HAMMADI WAS RELAXED AND NON-CONTENTIOUS EVEN WHEN EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT U. S. MILITARY SUPPLIES REACHING IRAN. ALTHOUGH HE HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO COMPLAIN ABOUT RECENT U. S. POSITIONS RE THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE HE DID NOT DO SO, THUS CONFIRMING THAT THE IRAQ/IRAN CONFLICT TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER EVERYTHING ELSE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

3. I SHARED WITH HAMMADI SOME IMPRESSIONS FROM WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS INCLUDING SATISFACTION WITH THE MODEST IMPROVEMENT IN US/IRAQI POLITICAL CONTACTS AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. I TOLD HIM THAT AS A STEP IN THE PROCESS OF UPGRADING OUR DIALOGUE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES WAS PREPARED TO VISIT BAGHDAD IN CONNECTION WITH A TRIP TO THE AREA WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN EARLY MARCH. AS SOON AS WE HAD IRAQ'S AGREEMENT, WE WOULD PROVIDE SUGGESTED DATES. HAMMADI SAID HE WOULD REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. IN BRIEFING RE MY CONSULTATIONS, I REFERRED TO THE CONTINUED DESIRE OF THE USG TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO HELP BRING THE IRAQ/IRAN WAR TO AN END. NOTING THAT WE HAD NO LEVERAGE IN TEHRAN, AND LITTLE IN BAGHDAD FOR THAT MATTER, OUR EFFORTS WOULD HAVE TO INVOLVE SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES OF OTHERS. WE HAD ALREADY MADE SOME PRELIMINARY CONTACTS, AND HAD KEPT IN TOUCH WITH THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL IN SUPPORT OF THE PALME MISSION.

5. HAMMADI SEEMED PLEASED WITH THIS INDICATION OF U. S. INTEREST IN ENDING THE WAR. HE SAID PALME WAS EXPECTED IN THE AREA FEBRUARY 24 THOUGH HE DID NOT REMEMBER WHETHER BAGHDAD OR TEHRAN WOULD COME FIRST. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RECENT MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE CRUSHING OF AN IRANIAN COUNTER OFFENSIVE IN THE BOSTAN AREA. NEVERTHELESS, HE THOUGHT IRAN MIGHT REQUIRE

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PAGE 02 OF 02 USINT BAGHDAD 0506

DTG: 230852Z FEB 82 PSN: 026851

FURTHER SETBACKS BEFORE BEING READY TO NEGOTIATE
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

6. AFTER MY REAFFIRMATION OF OUR INTENTION TO REMAIN
NEUTRAL IN THE IRAQ/IRAN CONFLICT AND NOT SUPPLY EITHER
SIDE WITH WEAPONS, HAMMADI REFERRED TO A RECENT REPORT
THAT AN IRANIAN DELEGATION HAD BEEN IN WASHINGTON
TO DISCUSS ARMS PURCHASES. I REPLIED THAT THE ONLY
U. S. CONTACT WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS I WAS AWARE OF
INVOLVED CLAIMS AGAINST IRAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
HOSTAGE RELEASE AGREEMENT AND THAT TO THE BEST OF MY
KNOWLEDGE THERE HAD BEEN NO RECENT U. S. /IRANIAN DIS-
CUSSION OF ARMS. (WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
GUIDANCE ON WHAT WE CAN SAY IN THIS REGARD.)

7. HAMMADI SEEMED PARTIALLY SATISFIED BUT THEN
REFERRED TO CONTINUED ISRAELI SUPPLIES REACHING IRAN.
IN REPLY TO MY SUGGESTION THAT IRAQ WAS PERHAPS
EXAGGERATING THE IMPORTANCE OF ISRAEL AS A SOURCE
OF IRANIAN ARMS, HAMMADI CLAIMED THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED
WERE SIGNIFICANT. I TOLD HIM WE CONTINUED TO OPPOSE
THE TRANSFER OF FMS-CONTROLLED ITEMS TO IRAN BUT NOTED
THAT ISRAEL HAD OTHER ITEMS AVAILABLE THAT WERE NOT
CONTROLLED. FURTHERMORE, IRAQI TELEVISION COVERAGE
OF CAPTURED WEAPONS HAD DISPLAYED MORE SOVIET THAN
AMERICAN MATERIEL. HAMMADI REPLIED THAT NORTH KOREA
WAS IRAN'S MAJOR SOURCE OF SUCH WEAPONS. IRAQ HAD
REPORTS THAT SOME SOVIET WEAPONS WERE BEING RECEIVED
DIRECT FROM THE USSR BUT THEY HAD NO FIRM INFORMATION
IN THIS REGARD.

8. IN CLOSING, I OBSERVED THAT THERE WERE NO
PRESSURES IN WASHINGTON FOR RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC
TIES WITH IRAQ THOUGH SOME DECISIONS, SUCH AS OUR
FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN A DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE,

WERE IN ABEYANCE BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT
RELATIONS. MEANWHILE, WE WERE BUILDING ON THE
SATISFACTORY STATUS AND INCREASED ACCESS OF OUR
INTERESTS SECTIONS. HAMMADI INDICATED THAT IRAQ
TOO WISHED TO PROCEED IN THIS MANNER.
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E. O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SA, IR

SUBJECT: U. S. MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY TOWARD IRAN

REF: JIDDA 9097

THE FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS FOR THE DEC. 28 NOON PRESS BRIEFING.

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE LONDON "SUNDAY TIMES" STORY CLAIMING THAT AN IRANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION HAS JUST COMPLETED A SECRET VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO NEGOTIATE THE DELIVERY OF F-4 AND F-14 SPARE PARTS ORDERED UNDER CONTRACTS SIGNED BETWEEN IRAN AND THE U. S. DURING THE SHAH'S REIGN?

A. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO FOUNDATION TO THE REPORT OF A VISIT OF AN IRANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION TO THE U. S., NOR IS THERE ANY FOUNDATION TO THE ALLEGATION IN THIS ARTICLE THAT THE UNITED STATES COMPLETED SHIPMENTS OF WAR MATERIEL WORTH SOME \$480 MILLION TO IRAN EARLIER THIS YEAR. IT REMAINS FIRM USG POLICY TO REFUSE TO SELL OR LICENSE THE EXPORT OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES TO EITHER IRAN OR IRAQ. THIS PROHIBITION ALSO APPLIES TO THE RELEASE OF ITEMS PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED BUT NOT DELIVERED. STOESEL
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E. O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PEPR, SOPN, IR, IS, IZ, UK, US

SUBJECT: BBC TELEVISION "PANORAMA" REPORT ON ISRAEL-IRAN
MILITARY SUPPLY LINKS

REF: TEL AVIV 1641

1. WE VIEWED THE PROGRAM CITED IN THE "JERUSALEM POST" (REFTEL) AND TAPED IT. BBC PROGRAM "PANORAMA" LASTING 50 MINUTES TELECAST EVENING FEBRUARY 2. SEVERAL ISRAELIS WERE INTERVIEWED ON THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING DAVID KIMCHE, WHO DESCRIBED EARLIER ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR THE SHAH AND COMMENTED ABOUT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC. IN THE POST-SHAH CONTEXT, KIMCHE STATED THAT "WE THINK THE IRANIAN ARMY SHOULD BE STRONG," AND AGREED WITH A REMARK BY NIMRODI (IDENTIFIED AS A MOSSAD AGENT FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO TEHRAN UNDER MILITARY ATTACHE COVER) THAT A COUP BY THE IRANIAN ARMY WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.

2. AFTER PROVIDING ALLEGEDLY FULL DETAILS OF ISRAELI SHIPMENTS OF ARMS TO THE IRANIAN MILITARY, "PANORAMA" INVESTIGATORS STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF U. S. SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION. THE NARRATOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE U. S. AND ISRAEL WERE SPLIT ON THE ISSUE OF RESUPPLY.

3. "PANORAMA'S" CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE ISRAELI RESUPPLY EFFORT WAS STILL UNDERWAY (BY SEA) AND THAT ISRAEL CONTINUED TO TRY TO PENETRATE THE IRANIAN MILITARY.

4. COMMENT: BECAUSE "PANORAMA" LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THE U. S. AND ISRAEL WERE DIVIDED ON IRANIAN POLICY, THE PROGRAM COULD AFFECT POSITIVELY THE ATTITUDES OF THOSE WHO SUSPECT THAT THE U. S. HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN IRANIAN RESUPPLY EFFORTS.

5. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF THE TAPE TO NEA/IAI, EMBASSY TEL AVIV AND USINT BAGHDAD. LOUIS
BT

RELEASED

REF M8008-113 #55129

BY RW DATE 2-24-10

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E.O. 12065: RDS-1 2/2/02 (CONSTABLE, PETER D)

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, IR, UR, FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO IRAN

REFS: A. STATE 24517; B. PARIS 3371

1. PARIS REFTEL REPORTS THAT INFORMATION ON SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO IRAN IS HARD TO GET, EVEN THOUGH RUMORS ABOUND. QUAI D'ORSAY'S IRAN DESK OFFICER JUST BACK FROM TEHRAN REPORTS RUMORS OF RESUMED ARMED DELIVERIES UNDER A 1971 RPT 1971 AGREEMENT MADE WITH THE SHAH'S REGIME. THIS CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH STATEMENT MADE BY QUAI'S MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR BOIDEVAIX IN HIS JANUARY 21-22 CONSULTATIONS HERE WHEN HE SPOKE OF MASSIVE SOVIET SUPPLIES IN THE CONTEXT OF 1979 RPT 1979 FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENTS WORTH ABOUT DOL 4 BILLION (STATE REFTEL).

2. WE SUSPECT BOIDEVAIX MISSPOKE AND MEANT TO REFER TO SOVIET SUPPLIES TO IRAQ, WHERE MAGNITUDE OF PAST AGREEMENTS IS CLOSER TO SUCH FIGURES (E.G., 1976 AGREEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY DOL 4 BILLION AND 1979 AGREEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY DOL 2 BILLION). WE ALSO WONDER IF CURRENT IRANIAN REQUIREMENTS SUFFICIENTLY PARALLEL THOSE A DECADE AGO TO FIT 1971 AGREEMENT. SINCE INFORMATION IN THIS AREA REMAINS HARD TO COME BY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SEEKING FURTHER

CLARIFICATION FROM QUAI D'ORSAY. BOIDEVAIX RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO REQUEST FROM DAS CONSTABLE DURING TALKS THAT FRENCH KEEP DEPARTMENT AND/OR EMBASSY CURRENT ON INFORMATION THEY RECEIVED THIS SUBJECT.

3. REFTELS BEING REPEATED MOSCOW FYI. HAIG
BT

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