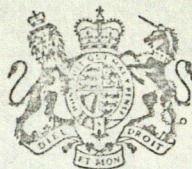


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subject copy filed on:-
Iran Situation Pt 5.



cc:- FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 61 / 80**

Thank you for your message about the Iranian situation which was delivered by Kingman Brewster on 13 March.

I am sorry that the UN Commission of Enquiry has failed, this time round, to secure the release of the hostages. I know that this must be a great disappointment to you and all those who have been working so hard recently on this subject. I fully understand your point about the Commission possibly having a future role to play and the need, accordingly, not to comment in public about the failure of the procedure which it was hoped would bring about the release of the hostages.

I have every sympathy with your concern that the Iranians should not be given the impression that business as usual can resume while the hostages are still detained. I can assure you that the measures which we instituted are still in place, and we shall be keeping them under review to ensure that they are being maintained.

It was good of you to send me your message setting out your thinking at this early stage about the seriousness of the new situation. My colleagues in the Government and I have much admired the restraint, firmness and skill with which you have been handling this difficult problem. We look forward to remaining in close touch over future developments.

The President of the United States of America

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RM