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ZZ WASHINGTON  
PP UKMIS NEW YORK  
PP OTTAWA  
GRS 311  
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FM FCO 261600Z MARCH 1980  
TO FLASH WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 587 OF 26 MARCH 1980.

REPEATED FOR INFORMATION PRIORITY TO: BONN, PARIS, TOKYO,  
OTTAWA, ROME, TEHRAN, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP EC, UKDEL NATO  
MIPT:IRAN

1. I SPOKE TO VANCE BY TELEPHONE THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT  
PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE. I ASKED WHETHER THE AMERICANS HAD  
ALREADY TAKEN ACTION WITH THE IRANIANS WARNING THEM OF THE US  
GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT AFTER MONDAY THE THREE  
MEASURES. IT SEEMED TO ME, WHILE I RECOGNISED THE DOMESTIC  
POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS, THAT THE PRESENT TIME, TWO DAYS AFTER  
THE SHAH'S MOVE TO EGYPT, WAS PERHAPS NOT THE MOST PROPITIOUS  
TO BE ISSUING THIS KIND OF ULTIMATUM. VANCE REPLIED THAT THE  
AMERICANS HAD ALREADY TAKEN ACTION, THOUGH IN GENERAL TERMS  
WITHOUT MENTIONING THE DETAILS OF THE THREE MEASURES. THEY  
HAD CONSIDERED CAREFULLY THE TIMING POINT BUT HAD CONCLUDED THAT  
IT WOULD MAKE LITTLE PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE. IN ANY EVENT, IT WAS  
NOT POSSIBLE TO LET THINGS RUN ON ANY LONGER. I ASKED HOW CLEAR  
AN IDEA THE IRANIANS WOULD HAVE OF WHAT THE AMERICANS INTENDED.  
THE SECOND OF THE AMERICAN MEASURES WOULD PRESUMABLY BE THE  
MOST SERIOUS. VANCE SAID THAT THE IRANIANS WOULD REALISE THAT  
SANCTIONS WERE INVOLVED. HE EMPHASISED THAT THE SECOND MEASURE  
INVOLVED SIMPLY THE CATALOGUING OF CLAIMS. IT DID NOT (NOT)  
AMOUNT TO SEIZURE.

2. I ALSO ASKED VANCE TO WHOM THE PRESIDENT HAD SENT SIMILAR  
MESSAGES. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD GONE TO THE HEADS OF  
GOVERNMENT IN BONN, PARIS, ROME, TOKYO AND OTTAWA. THE  
AMERICANS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE MORE COUNTRIES WHO COULD  
PARTICIPATE IN ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE

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BETTER, BUT HAD PREFERRED TO CONTACT THESE SIX OTHER GOVERNMENTS  
IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. WARREN CHRISTOPHER WOULD SHORTLY BE  
HOLDING A MEETING WITH THE SIX AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON. VANCE  
HIMSELF WOULD BE FACED WITH A MAJOR HEARING ON IRAN ON 27 MARCH.

CARRINGTON

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