

RHODESIA POLICY ADVANCE COPIES - 28

MR/MS I GILMOUR
MR/MS LUCE
MR/MS

MR WILLSON
MR DAY
LORD R G LEINOX
MR ASPIN

10 DOWNING STREET

McGOLTY

MR R J WADDE-GERY)
MR P M MAXEY)
~~MR DEVERALL~~)
MR P J FOWLER)
DIO)

CABINET OFFICE

HD/RHOD DEPT (4)

HD/C AF D
HD/S AF D

HD/PUSD (2)

HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/WAD

SIR I. SINGLA LEGAL ADVISER RM K174

MR FITCOCK LEGAL ADVISER RM K164

RESIDENT CLERK

Prime Minister

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GR 500

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 230930Z (FCO)

DESKBY 230300Z (TEHRAN)

FM UKMIS NEW YORK 230041Z NOV 79

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1607 OF 22 NOVEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE TEHRAN

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON

IMMEDIATE

[Handwritten initials]

MY TELNO 1587: HOSTAGES IN TEHRAN

1. DURING THE LAST TWO DAYS THE INITIATIVE HAS PASSED FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, WHO HAS BEEN CONDUCTING SEPARATE AND CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMERICANS AND SALAMATIEN.

2. WALDHEIM GAVE ME AN ACCOUNT TODAY OF HOW HE WAS GETTING ON. HE SAID THAT HE WAS WORKING ON A PACKAGE WHICH MIGHT CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

(A) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO THE SHAH'S ALLEGED CRIMES:

(B) AGREEMENT BY THE AMERICANS NOT TO OPPOSE RECOURSE BY THE IRAN-

(B) AGREEMENT BY THE AMERICANS NOT TO OPPOSE RECOURSE BY THE IRANIANS TO THE US COURTS IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO LAY HANDS ON THE SHAH'S PROPERTY:

(C) RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES:

(D) A CALL BY THE UN TO THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN TO RESTORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS, SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES PEACEFULLY AND RESCIND THE ECONOMIC MEASURES THEY HAVE TAKEN AGAINST EACH OTHER.

3. WALDHEIM SAID THAT THE AMERICANS HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE IN THEIR RESPONSE TO THESE IDEAS. SALAMATIAN WAS ALSO NOT ENTIRELY OPPOSED AND NOW SEEMED TO REALISE THAT EARLIER IRANIAN INSISTENCE ON EXTRADITION OF THE SHAH WAS SIMPLY NOT FEASIBLE. BUT SALAMATIAN KEPT ON REFERRING TO THE NEED FOR A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. IF THE HOSTAGES WERE TO BE RELEASED, THE REGIME IN IRAN WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THE STUDENTS SOMETHING TO SHOW THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY "RECOGNISED THE JUSTICE OF THEIR PRINCIPLES". WALDHEIM WAS THEREFORE WORKING ON A STATEMENT WHICH HE MIGHT ISSUE HIMSELF, EITHER IN ADVANCE OF THE REST OF THE PACKAGE OR PREFERABLY AS PART OF IT. THIS STATEMENT WOULD EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRONG EMOTIONS FELT IN IRAN, SYMPATHY FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLE'S RESENTMENT AT THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE UNDER THE PREVIOUS REGIME AND SO ON.

4. WALDHEIM ASKED WHETHER I THOUGHT HE WAS WORKING ON THE RIGHT LINES. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT HE WAS AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO PERSEVERE. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO AVOID FORMAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, LET ALONE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. PUBLIC SPEECHES COULD ONLY RAISE THE TEMPERATURE HERE AND IN TEHRAN. WALDHEIM CONFIRMED THAT THE AMERICANS WERE STILL VERY HESITANT ABOUT ANY FORMAL MEETING.

5. TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES A GARBLED VERSION OF WALDHEIM'S IDEAS, LEAKED, HE SAID, BY BISHARA OF KUWAIT, WHO HAS BEEN KEPT GENERALLY IN THE PICTURE.

6. THE AMERICAN MISSION TOLD US THIS MORNING THAT MCHENRY IS IN WASHINGTON TODAY FOR TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AS A RESULT OF WHICH AMERICAN POLICY ON THIS ISSUE AT THE UNITED NATIONS MIGHT TAKE A NEW DIRECTION. THEY SAID THAT THEY THOUGHT MCHENRY WOULD WANT TO CONSULT ME ABOUT THIS AS SOON AS HE GETS BACK TOMORROW MORNING.

PARSONS