

(From: Ministry)

Lukka unit is near here.

MR WHITMOREAKH
30w.Terrorist Incident at Iranian Embassy, London

The facts of today's incident are as follows-

a. At 11.30 am today, three armed men forced their way into the Iranian Embassy at Princes Gate, Knightsbridge taking hostage a policeman, who was on duty outside the Embassy.

b. All those already in the Embassy and the policeman were taken hostage, a total of about 20 comprising:

- (i) 1 policeman
- (ii) Iranian Embassy staff
- (iii) 1 BBC journalist
- (iv) 1 British member of Embassy staff
- (v) 1 Lebanese journalist

One Iranian hostage (female) was released at an early stage.

c. The terrorists have presented their demands in writing, in Arabic and English. See attached note.

2. The terrorists, who style themselves the Group of Martyrs, are Iranian Arabs from Arabistan. They are Iraqi trained and have links with the PFLP. They belong to a group which has recently been blowing up pipelines in Western Iran. It was to be assumed therefore that they are capable of using explosives, as threatened.

3. The police on the spot, under Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dellow, have set up a Forward Control Centre at 25 Princes Gate (the Embassy is at number 16). Adjacent buildings have been evacuated and the area cordoned off.

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4. The Cabinet Office Briefing Room was opened at 3.00 pm. The Home Secretary took the chair at 5.45 pm and again at 6.30 pm. The following decisions have been made or action taken -

a. Since the Home Secretary had made a non-committal holding statement in the House earlier in the afternoon there was no requirement to make a further statement in the House until tomorrow. But a factual Press ^{release} was required and was made at 6.25 pm (copy attached).

b. The SAS Command Group was authorised to make a covert reconnaissance of the Embassy. This is in hand.

c. The SAS team should be moved covertly from Hereford to Knightsbridge Barracks.

d. Sir John Graham has been instructed to stand by to act as a channel of communication should the Iranian authorities in Tehran wish to make suggestions on the handling of the incident. He is not to invite such suggestions.

5. There has been a late unconfirmed report that one of the hostages has been killed. It is also now clear that the Iranian Charge is inside the Embassy and not outside, as reported earlier.

6. The Cabinet Office Briefing Room remains open. The Home Secretary will return for a resumed discussion at 10.15 pm.

C H O'D Alexander

C H O'D ALEXANDER

*N.V. Bryant's
Cath Barracks,
as the Home
Secretary told you.
Knightsbridge Barracks
are of course closer
to the Embassy.*

30 April 1980

Incident at Iranian Embassy

The demands are from the Group of the Martyr. MUHI EIDEN AL NASSIR.

These are the demands (more or less).

- (1) Set free 91 prisoners of our friends who are imprisoned by Kohomeni and whose names are listed. (The police have the list of names). These prisoners are exposed to savage means of torture, terrorism, liquidation at the hands of the new "Savak" system agents.
- (2) Iranian's recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Iranian peoples halting the liquidation campaigns and the daily mass extermination to which our people are exposed.
- (3) Providing a special plane for carrying the group of hostages outside England following the achievement of Kohomeni's agreement to the first above mentioned Article 24 hours after the distribution of this statement.
- (4) We also warn against any action aiming at ending this operation without carrying out its goals. Otherwise we would kill the hostages and explode the building and group as well. We hope you would co-operate with us so as not to disfigure the human ends of the operation.

Glory and eternity for A'RABSTAN Martyrs. Long life A'RABSTAN as an Arabian free Region.

Some speculation they might be aligned with PLFP.

The following statement was issued to the Press Association at 18.25 pm.

The following statement was issued by the Home Office today:

At 11.30 today three armed men forced their way into the Iranian Embassy at Princes Gate, Knightsbridge, taking hostage a policeman, who was on duty outside the Embassy. There were at that time about 20 people inside the Embassy, most of whom were Iranian staff. Three at least, including the police officer are British. One woman hostage, an Iranian, has been released. The rest are still held hostage within the Embassy. The building is surrounded by the police who are in communication with the three men concerned. Those responsible for this hostage taking have issued a statement identifying themselves as members of the dissident Iranian Group of the Martyr. They have made certain demands which include calling on the Iranian authorities to release a number of prisoners held in Iran and to recognise the rights of dissident people in that country.

The aim of the Police and Her Majesty's Government is to bring this incident to a peaceful conclusion without loss of life.