



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

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*Overlaken 2 part**For - [unclear] 8/11**Dear Michael,*Iran

You will be seeing from the telegrams what is happening in Iran but it may be useful for you to have the following supplementary report to fill this out.

Our own Embassy is now functioning more or less normally. Their communications system is expected to be fully operational by early next week but, in the meantime, they can handle essential traffic adequately. Sir J Graham who was kept in London after the Middle East Heads of Mission Conference in order to help with the Rhodesia negotiations returned with his wife last night. We judge that, although the heat is off our Embassy for the moment, there is still some risk of further incursions. We have just heard that a mob is attacking the premises jointly owned by the Financial Times and the BBC, and the Embassy are doing what they can to help.

The Americans' situation is much worse than ours. The Americans have now secured the agreement of Ayatollah Beheshti, (leader of the Islamic Republican Party, founded to support Khomeini, and believed to be Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, which is now running the country following the resignation yesterday of Prime Minister Bazargan) to a visit to Tehran by two senior emissaries, Ramsay Clark, the former Attorney-General, and William Miller, Staff Director of the Senate Intelligence Committee. They will be carrying a letter from President Carter and have authority to negotiate. It is possible that they will be allowed to see Khomeini himself.

We have taken the initiative in the Nine in favour of a joint demarche in Tehran urging the Iranian Government to take all necessary steps to protect diplomatic lives and premises and, where incursions do take place, to return diplomatic premises without delay and without condition to the control of their owners. This has been agreed by the Nine and the Irish Presidency are sending instructions to Tehran. This action to impress upon the Iranian authorities the solidarity of the Nine will not only serve our own interests but is also designed to assist the Americans. A message to the Iranian Government from Dr Waldheim, which has now been sent, could also help.

/Meanwhile

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Meanwhile our own Embassy are doing all they can to help the Americans in a practical way, acting as a channel for communications and harbouring some of their people. Their ability to continue to do this, without undue risks to themselves, requires us to be discreet.

Following the resignation of the Bazargan Government individual ministers have apparently been asked to stay on as caretakers until new arrangements can be made. It is not clear whether this will involve the nomination of a new government or whether Iran will henceforth be governed in name, as well as in fact, by the Revolutionary Council. We also do not know whether Dr Yazdi will retain his present functions as Foreign Minister; but, since he is thought to be a member of the Revolutionary Council, this may turn out to be the case.

Yours etc

Paul

(P Lever)